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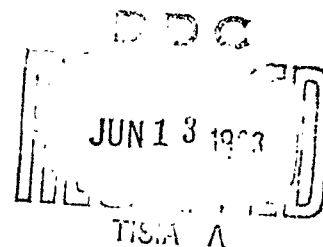
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NOLTR 62-219

TIMES FAX: AN UNDERWATER ACOUSTIC
RANGE REFERENCE

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14 JANUARY 1963



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TIMES FAX: AN UNDERWATER ACOUSTIC
RANGE REFERENCE

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and
E. A. Bitz

ABSTRACT: This report describes a sonar range reference system, referred to as the Times Fax System, for determining the relative range between two submarines. Times Fax ranging capabilities vary with submarine self noise and sonar conditions. Considering sea state noise only, Times Fax has a ranging capability of 28 kiloyards to 10 kiloyards for Sea States 2 and 6, respectively.

The various subsystems of the integrated Times Fax System are discussed in detail. However, the subsystems not commercially available are emphasized.

This system has been in use on submarines since 1959. The system has been used for sonar and torpedo evaluation programs.

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U. S. NAVAL ORDNANCE LABORATORY
White Oak, Silver Spring, Maryland

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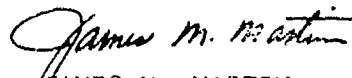
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TIMES FAX: AN UNDERWATER ACOUSTIC RANGE REFERENCE SYSTEM

The Times Fax ranging system is a one-way pulse, chronometer-controlled ranging system. The system has been in use on submarines since 1959.

Information is given in this report that describes the Times Fax System in respect to theory, recording and data processing instrumentation, and system fabrication. System fabrication does not include layout procedure.

R. E. ODENING
Captain, USN
Commander


JAMES M. MARTIN
By direction

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References

- (a) Journal of Underwater Acoustics Report C-83511; A 1 kc Transducer Element for a Long-Range Search Sonar Array
- (b) Undersea Technology Technical Magazine, November-December 1962; Controlled Rectifier Sonar Transmitter

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TIMES FAX: AN UNDERWATER ACOUSTIC RANGE
REFERENCE SYSTEM

INTRODUCTION

1. The need for range reference information at sea became apparent during the evaluation of sonar and fire control systems. The only available range references that could be conveniently used at sea were radar and the underwater telephone (UQC). Radar limited the range to the target to line of sight operations. Also, the tracking and target ships or submarines were limited to surface or periscope depth of operation. UQC can be used for range checks during submerged operations; however, it is not accurate enough and requires excessive underwater transmission time.

2. The Times Fax System uses the water as the transmission medium; therefore, the operating depth is not limited. Also, the human errors involved in using UQC are eliminated. Range information is read out directly in yards on a time interval counter and subsequently printed or punched out on paper tape.

SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

3. The Times Fax System is a chronometer controlled range reference system. A one-way 50 millisecond, underwater acoustical pulse having a carrier frequency of 1066 cps is transmitted from a target vessel once per minute. At the same instant this pulse is transmitted from the target, a chronometer starts a time interval counter at the receiving (tracking) location. The transmitter and receiver chronometers are synchronized with radio station WWV or equivalent.

4. The transmitted pulse stops a time interval counter when it is received by the tracking ship's sonar. The time interval counter uses an external time base oscillator with its frequency set equivalent to the velocity of sound in water in yards per second.

5. The Times Fax System can be used as a range reference for torpedo, sonar, and fire control evaluation programs. This system is subject to one-way sonar transmission properties, since it uses the water as the transmission medium. Therefore, it is necessary to know the

average velocity of sound over the transmission path, as well as knowing the path. Thus far, Times Fax has only been used on submarines. An illustration showing a typical transmission of Times Fax is presented in Figure 1.

TIMES FAX SUBSYSTEMS

6. The Times Fax System consists of two subsystems referred to as a transmitting and a receiving system. The receiving subsystem requires a sonar platform for operation.

Transmitting System

7. A block diagram of the transmitting system is presented in Figure 2. The functions of the equipment in the various blocks are as follows:

a. Projector (Transducer) - The projector is a Naval Research Laboratory XEM-3B Electro-Mechanical transducer. It is electro-mechanically resonant at 1066 cps. The projector is described in detail in reference (a). A plastic fairing covers the transducer for protective purposes. Figures 3, 4, and 5 give transducer directivity patterns (polar graphs), transducer impedance plot, and a photographic layout of the transducer assembly.

b. Frequency Standard (also used at the receiver) - The Quartz Crystal Oscillator functions as a frequency standard for the chronometer (frequency divider-clock). General specifications are presented in Appendix A.

c. Chronometer (also used at the receiver) - The chronometer (frequency divider) when used in conjunction with the crystal oscillator is designed to provide an output pulse once per second. A modification was made to the chronometer to provide an output pulse for supplying reference ranges once per minute. The modification consisted of mounting a cam assembly to the one rpm planetary gear assembly. This cam assembly is used to actuate a microswitch located at the 60-second position on the chronometer. The cam assembly can be set to the exact time intervals with the second hand adjustment knob of the chronometer. An additional microswitch is located at the 45-second position on the receiver chronometer for stopping the time interval counter, if the Times Fax ping fails to stop it. General specifications are presented in Appendix B.

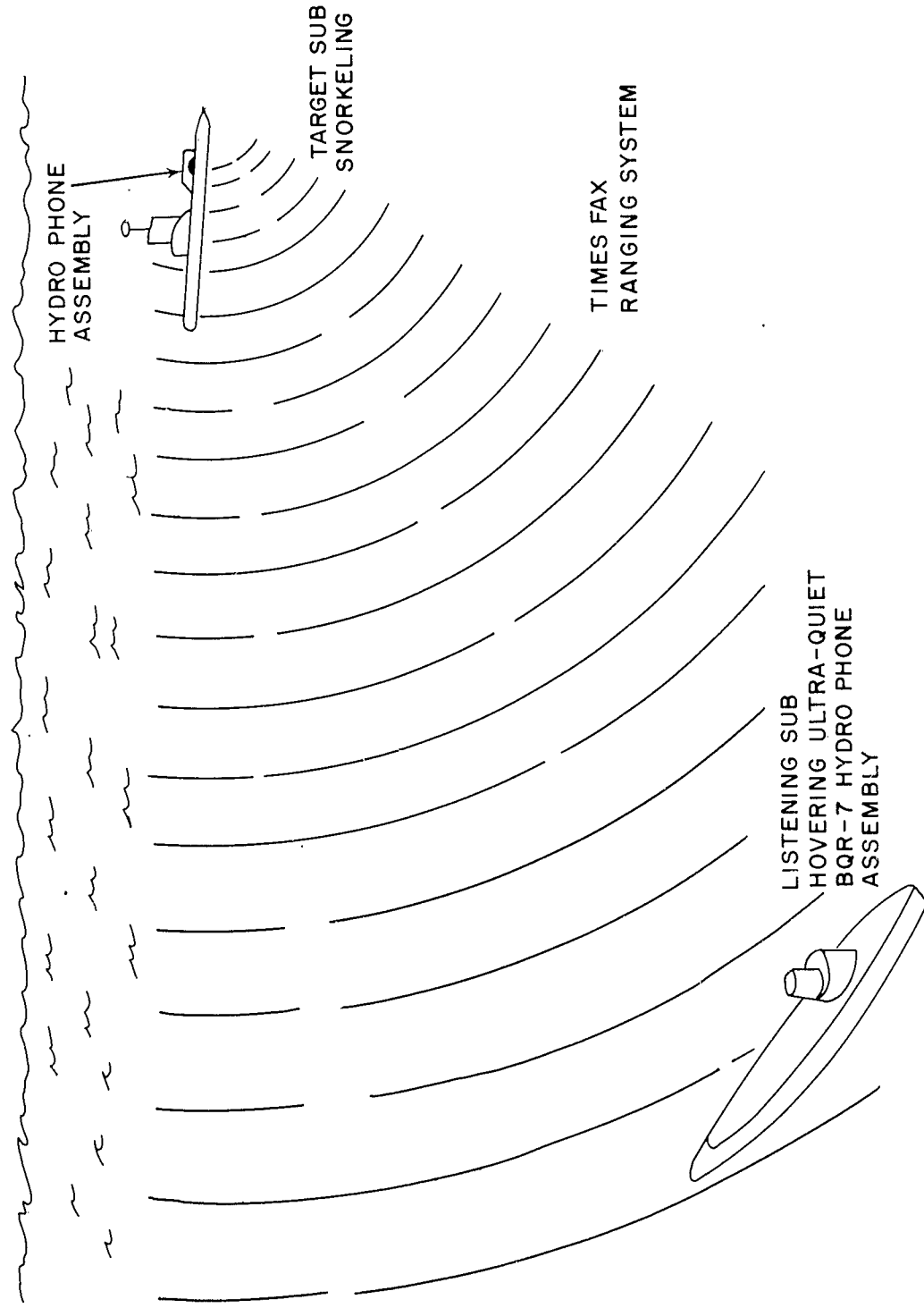


FIG.1 TIMES FAX SYSTEM ILLUSTRATED

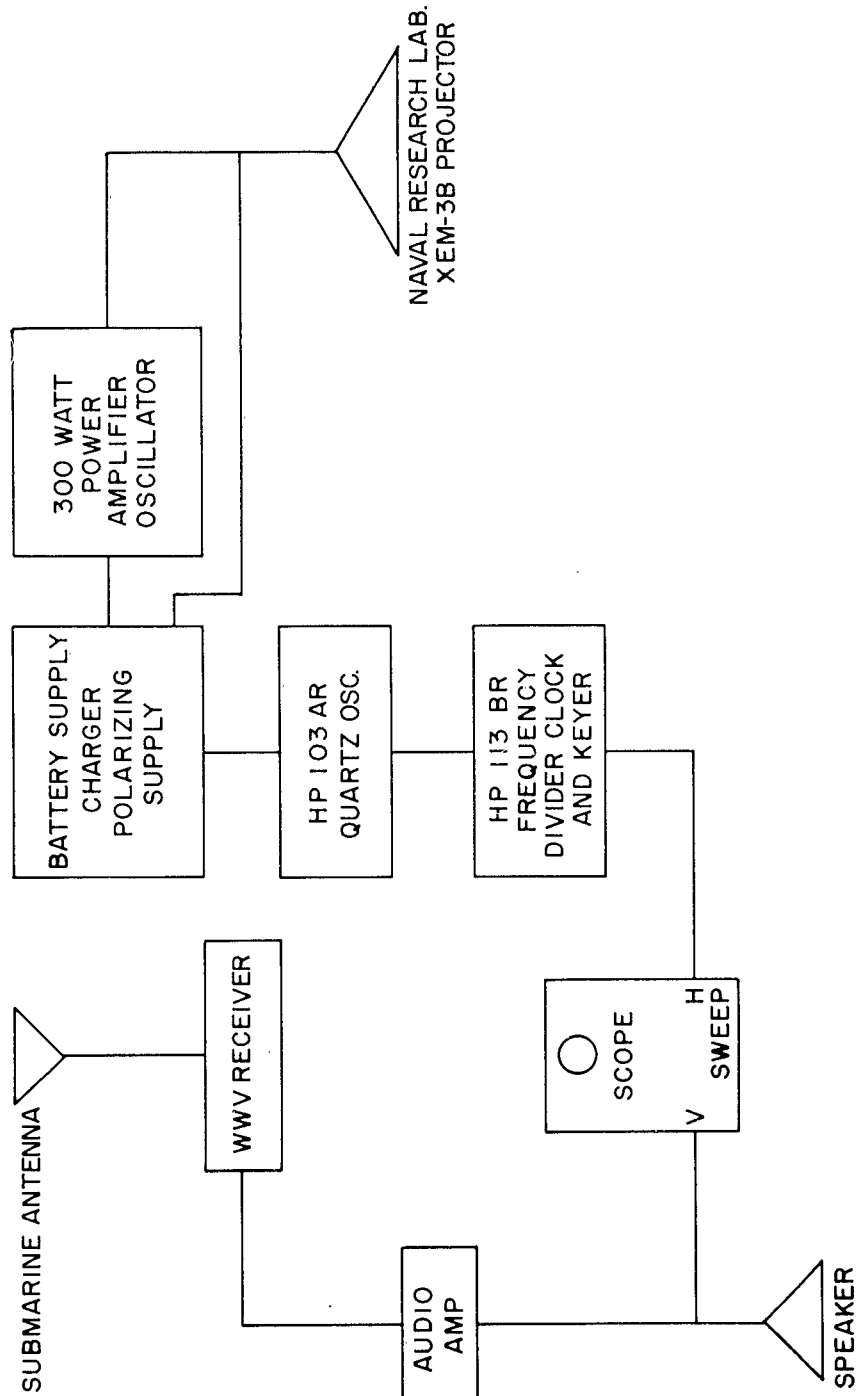
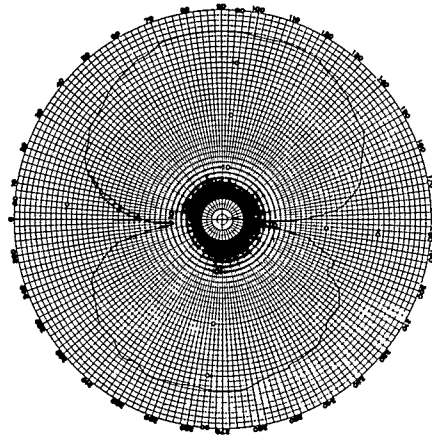
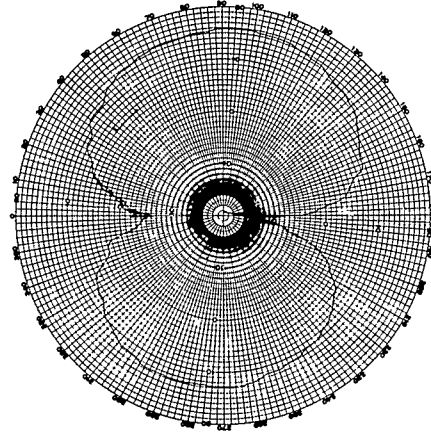


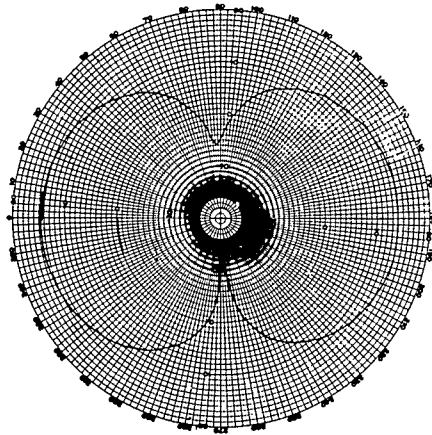
FIG. 2 BLOCK DIAGRAM OF THE TRANSMITTING SYSTEM



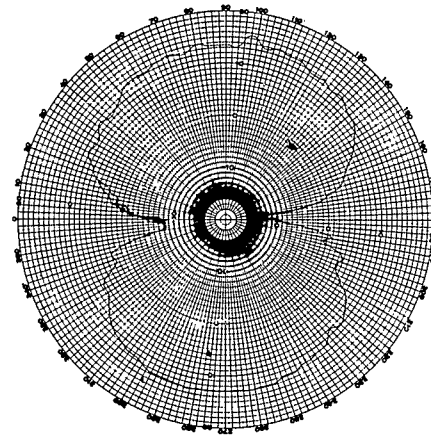
POLARIZING CURRENT 6.5 AMPS DC
TEST FREQUENCY 1041 CPS
LINE VOLTAGE 110 V RMS
MAXIMUM FIELD STRENGTH 91.2 db/μb AT 1 METER



POLARIZING CURRENT 7.0 AMPS DC
TEST FREQUENCY 1041 CPS
LINE VOLTAGE 110 V RMS
MAXIMUM FIELD STRENGTH 91.2 db/μb AT 1 METER



POLARIZING CURRENT 6.0 AMPS DC
TEST FREQUENCY 1041 CPS
LINE VOLTAGE 175 V RMS
MAXIMUM FIELD STRENGTH 89.7 db/μb AT 1 METER



POLARIZING CURRENT 5.5 AMPS DC
TEST FREQUENCY 1041 CPS
LINE VOLTAGE 130 V RMS
MAXIMUM FIELD STRENGTH 84.75 db/μb AT 1 METER

FIG. 3 XEM-3B DIRECTIVITY PATTERNS (POLAR GRAPHS)

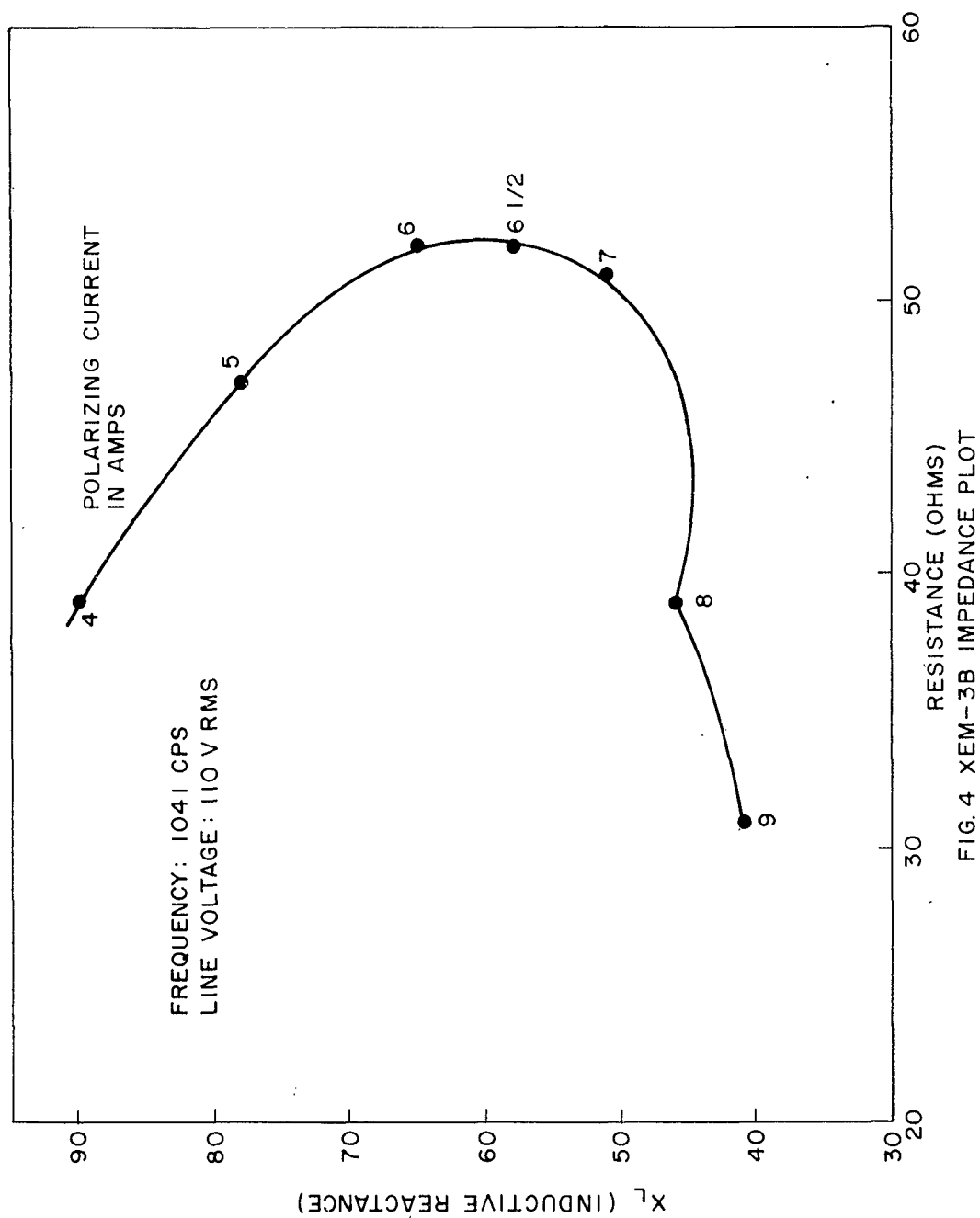


FIG. 4 XEM-3B IMPEDANCE PLOT

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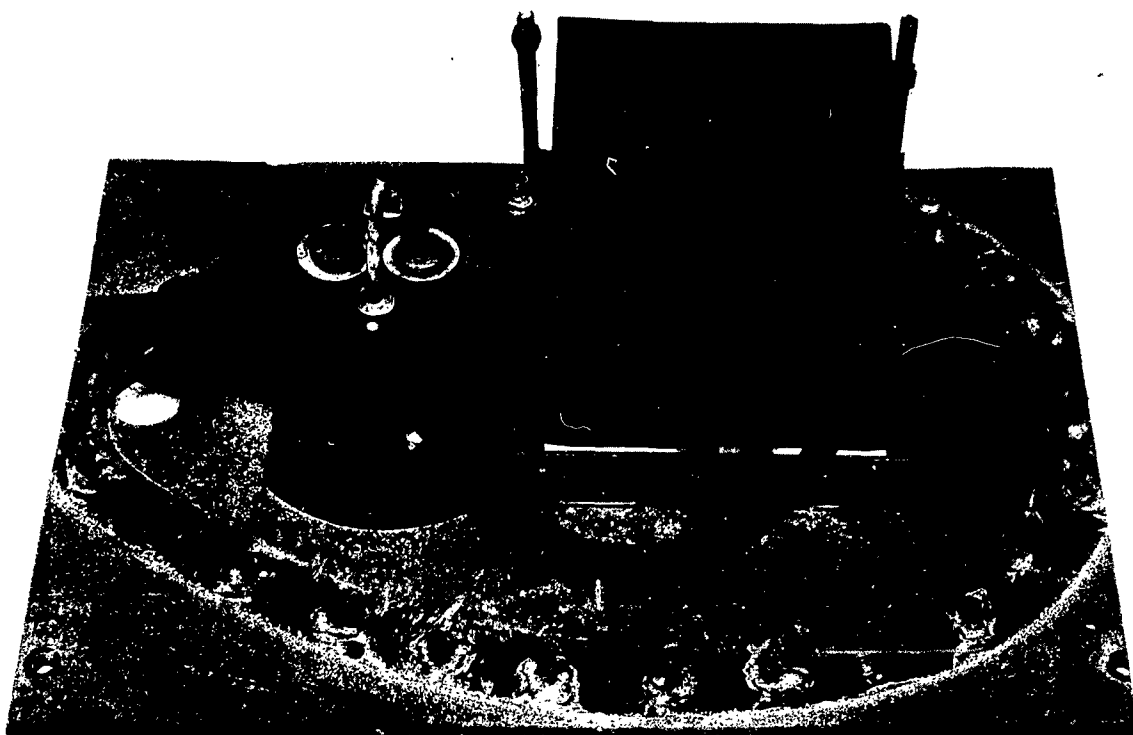


FIG. 5 XEM-3B ASSEMBLY

d. Battery Supply, Charger and Polarizing Supply - One power supply provides power for the crystal oscillator and chronometer combination. A similar power supply provides polarizing current for the XEM-3B transducer and supplies power for the 300-watt power amplifier-oscillator. The circuit schematic is presented in Figure 6. Nickel cadmium cells are used in the 28-volt battery supply.

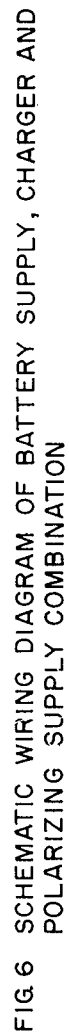
e. 300-Watt Power Amplifier-Oscillator - The power amplifier-oscillator assembly is comprised of five stages or major parts: a keying stage, a tuned oscillator stage, a buffer stage, a driver stage and an output amplifier stage. An assembly circuit schematic is presented in Figure 7. The aforementioned stages are accentuated by vertical dashed lines. A complete description of the device is presented in Appendix C. An equivalent power amplifier is now available commercially. A recently designed power amplifier using SCR's (silicon controlled rectifier) and the ship's 3 phase power is presented in reference (b).

f. WWV Audio Amplifier - Speaker and Cathode Ray Oscilloscope (CRO) - The ship's radio receiver is used to receive radio station WWV's "Time Tick". The WWV signal may be received at frequencies of 2.5, 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 megacycles. WWV broadcasts a 5 millisecond pulse at intervals of precisely one second. For identification purposes, the 59th second pulse is omitted and the zero-second pulse is followed by another pulse 100 milliseconds later. The speaker-amplifier combination is used to listen to the WWV time tick and time announcements. The chronometer with the frequency standard is calibrated by referencing its output to WWV. The calibration method employed compares the position of the WWV signal on a cathode ray oscilloscope in respect to the leading edge of the beam. The CRO horizontal sweep time is set for 10 milliseconds per centimeter and is triggered externally by the output from the chronometer.

Receiving System

8. A block diagram of this system is presented in Figure 8. The description of the items represented by the blocks are as follows:

a. Ship's Sonar - The transmitted Times Fax pulse is received by the tracking submarine's sonar. It is recommended that the sonar system be placed in the automatic tracking mode.



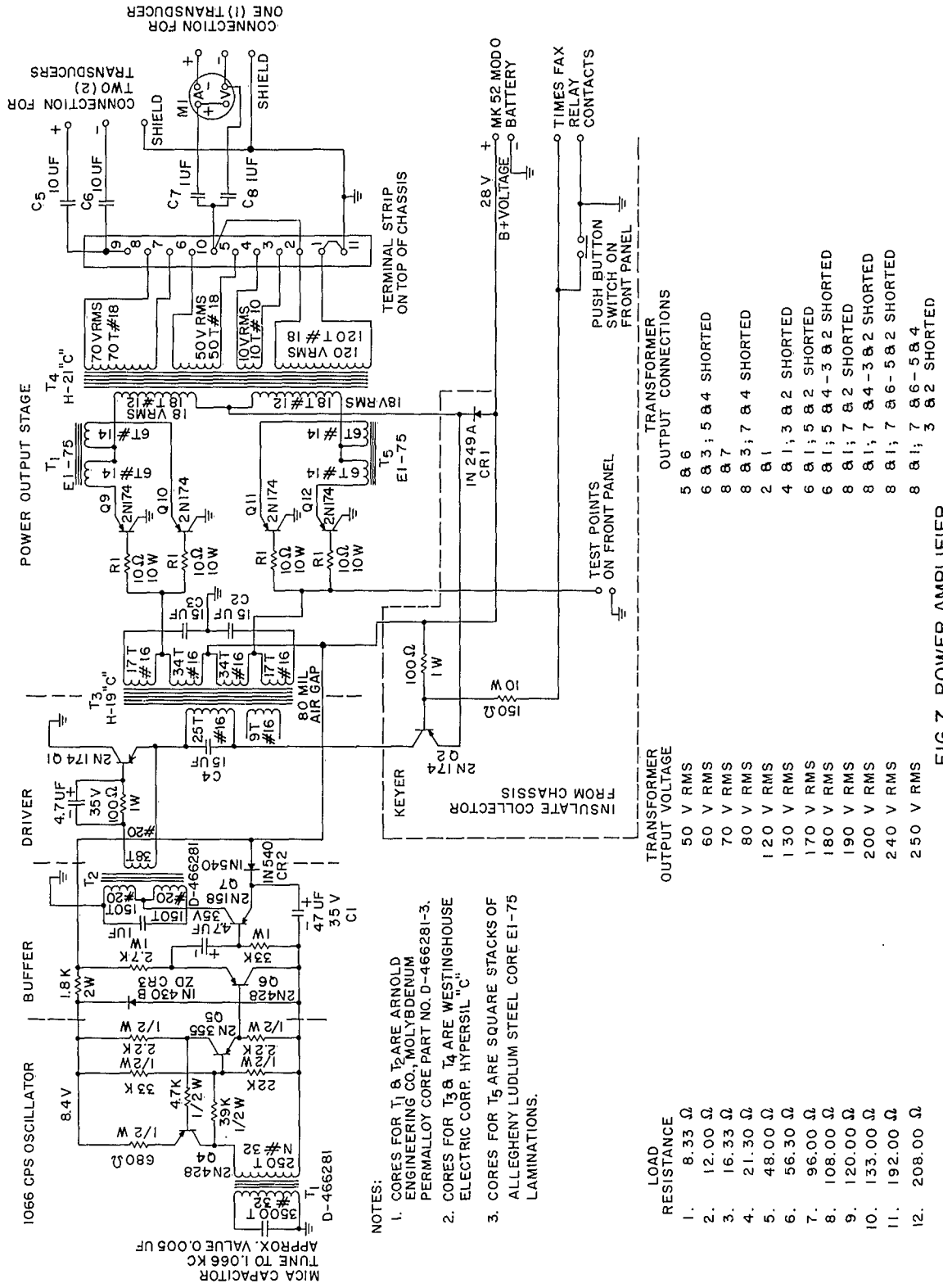


FIG. 7 POWER AMPLIFIER

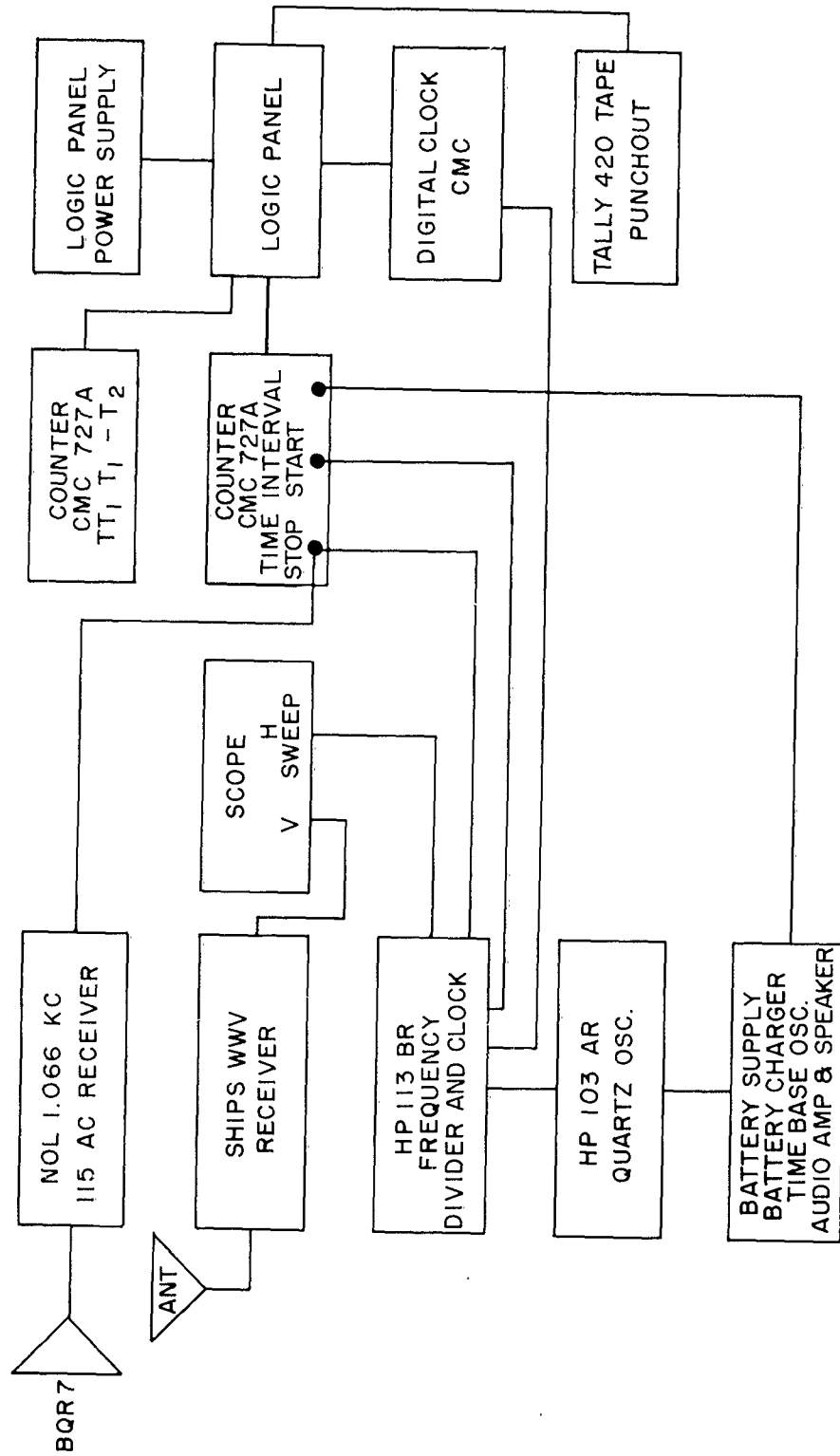


FIG. 8 BLOCK DIAGRAM OF THE RECEIVING SYSTEM

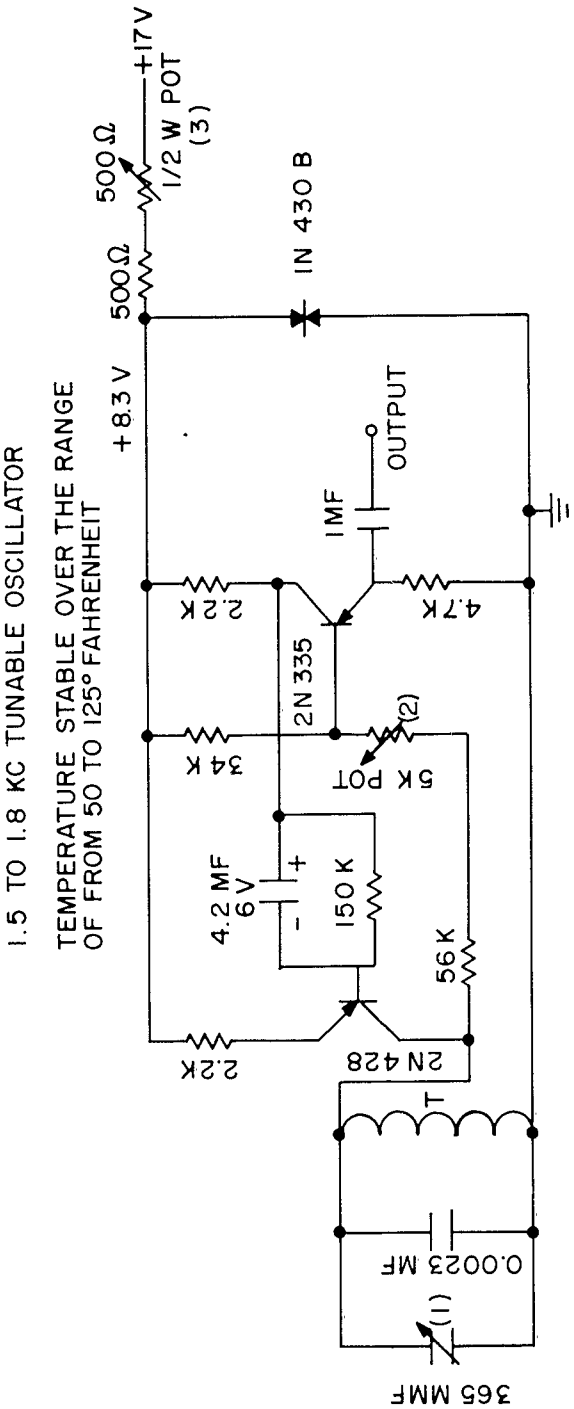
b. The Receiver - The function of the receiver is to amplify the Times Fax signals as received by the sonar and to recognize the signal pulse the instant it arrives. When signal pulse recognition occurs, the receiver generates a pulse to stop the time interval counter. The receiver has a bandwidth of 50 cps centered at 1060 cps in order to discriminate against unwanted noise. The design of this receiver has undergone several revisions, as experience indicated additional features were desirable. These revisions consisted of add-on modifications and, hence, the design details are something different than would have resulted, if all of the desirable features were incorporated into an initial design. Even so, the present equipment will function in the required manner. Appendix D provides a detailed description of this equipment and outlines some of the design and operational considerations.

c. Time Base Oscillator - The oscillator is tunable over the frequency range of 1.5 to 1.8 kc. It is temperature stable over the range of 50° to 125° F. A circuit schematic of the oscillator is presented in Figure 9. The 2N335 transistor acts as a variable impedance and controls the collector current through the 2N428 transistor. The 2N335 is a silicon and the 2N428 is a germanium transistor. Temperature stability of the oscillator is greatly enhanced by the 1N430b for controlling power supply fluctuations and by using the 2N335 to control the collector current of the 2N428.

d. Time Interval Counter - An electronic time interval counter is used to measure the time interval from the instant the pulse is transmitted until the instant the pulse is received. The time base oscillator is used to control the counting rate of the time interval counter. The frequency of this oscillator is variable and was designed to be adjustable from 1500 to 1800 cps. The exact frequency is set to the velocity of sound in yards per second under local conditions. This method of recording the signal transit time gives the range in yards directly.

DATA RECORDING INSTRUMENTATION

9. The recording of the Times Fax range data can be accomplished by a print-out or a logic punch-out recording system. Either one of the two systems will give satisfactory results. However, the logic punch-out recording was designed to be compatible with computer equipment. The Times Fax range may also be read directly from the counter. The "Logic" and the "Printer" systems are presented in



- (1) PARALLEL PANEL VERNIER DIAL.
 - (2) ADJUST FOR MAXIMUM UNDISTORTED OUTPUT.
 - (3) ADJUST FOR 10 MA. ZENER CURRENT
- T 5000 T #36 FORMVAR ON MOLYBDENUM PERMALLOY POWDER CORE NO. D-067032-4

FIG. 9 SCHEMATIC WIRING DIAGRAM OF TIME BASE OSCILLATOR

Figures 10 and 11, respectively. All of the automatic recording equipment is available commercially. Integrated systems are also available commercially.

a. The Logic Punch-out System records the BCD (binary coded decimal) counter outputs on a paper tape punch after pre-BCD logic conditioning. This processing system is described in detail in Appendix E.

b. The Print-out Recording System uses a commercially available counter and printer. This system is the most basic of the two. Although the system is not directly compatible with computer equipment, the printed data may be manually punched on cards and these in turn can be used to write a magnetic tape for computation purposes.

c. As shown in Figure 11, the Print-out System accepts the BCD output from the counter directly and prints this information on paper. A stable oscillator circuit is still required as time intervals are being measured.

SUMMARY

10. The Times Fax ranging system has been compared with Surface Fire Control Radar. The results of these tests are presented in Figures 12 and 13. The range comparison, as shown in Figures 12 and 13 represent a maximum difference of 250 yards. Figure 14 shows a calculated curve of maximum range versus sea state for a (XEM-3B) projector sound intensity level of 90 db/ μ b at one meter. If the sea state is two, the graph shows the maximum obtainable range to be 28 kiloyards for a 14 db S/N ratio at the receiver input. This graph excludes the transient effect of the self noise which results in pseudo signals (stop signals) being sent to the time interval counter. In conclusion, the Times Fax System presented in this report was successfully tested prior to and in the evaluation of a sonar system. The Times Fax System is limited by sonar conditions and submarine self noise. Design efforts are being made to improve the Times Fax receiver.

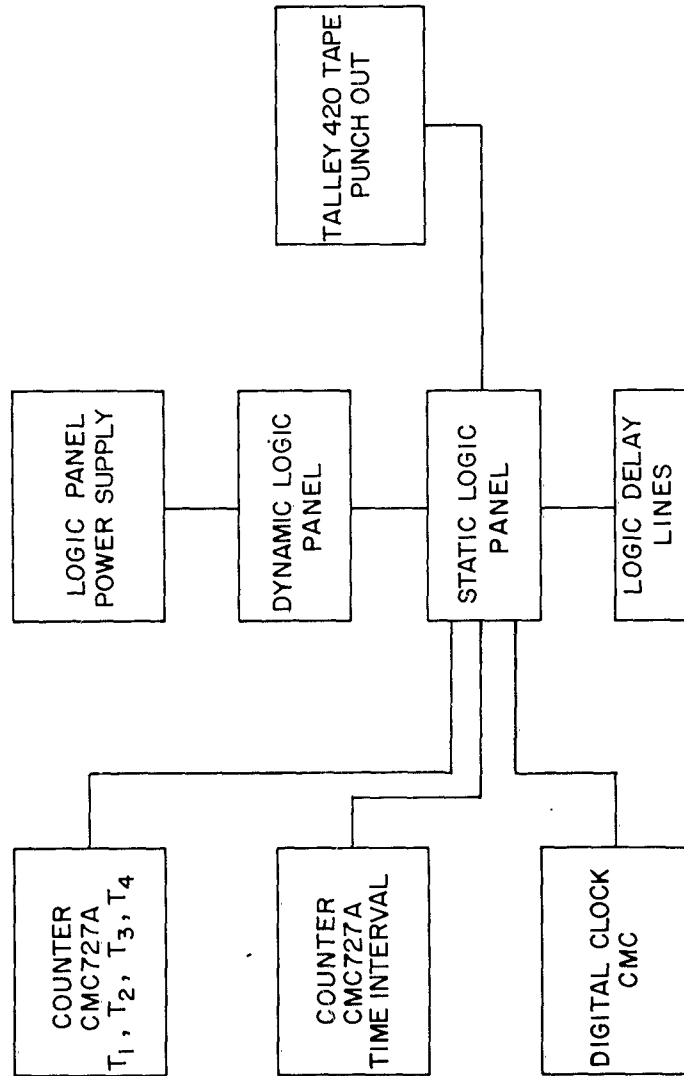


FIG 10 BLOCK DIAGRAM OF LOGIC PUNCH-OUT SYSTEM

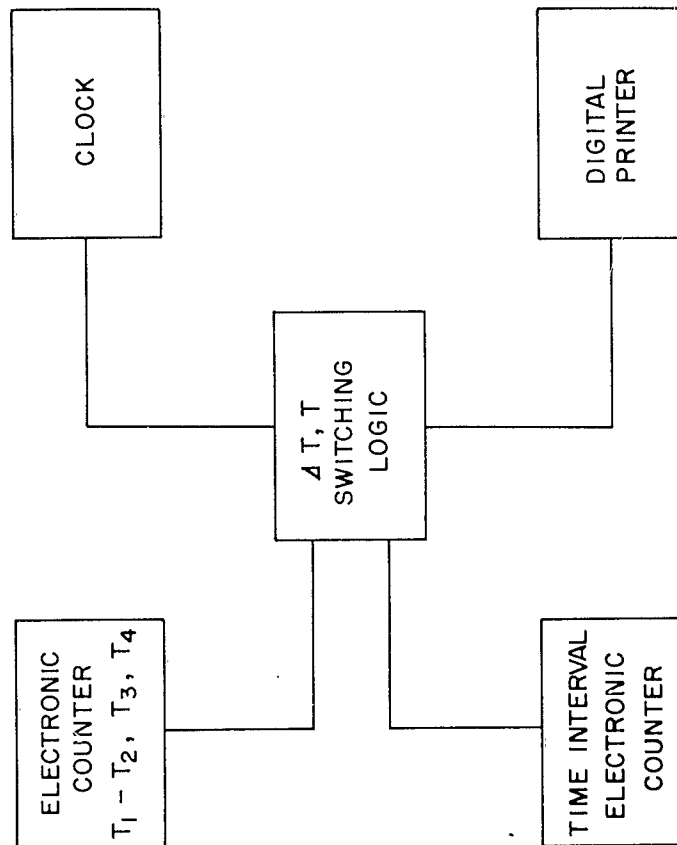


FIG.11 BLOCK DIAGRAM OF PRINTER DATA SYSTEM

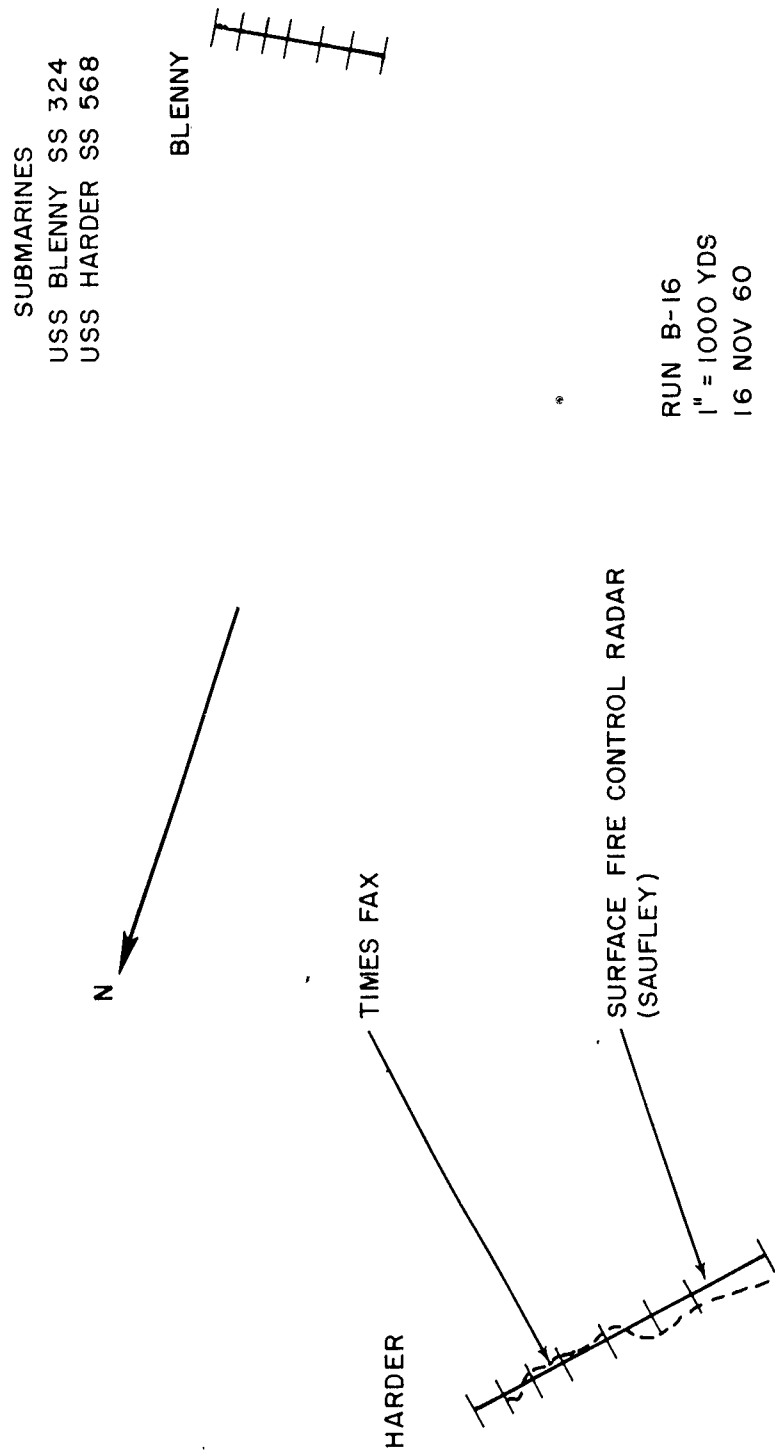


FIG. 12 TIMES FAX SYSTEM AND SURFACE CONTROL
(RADAR) RANGE COMPARISON - RUN

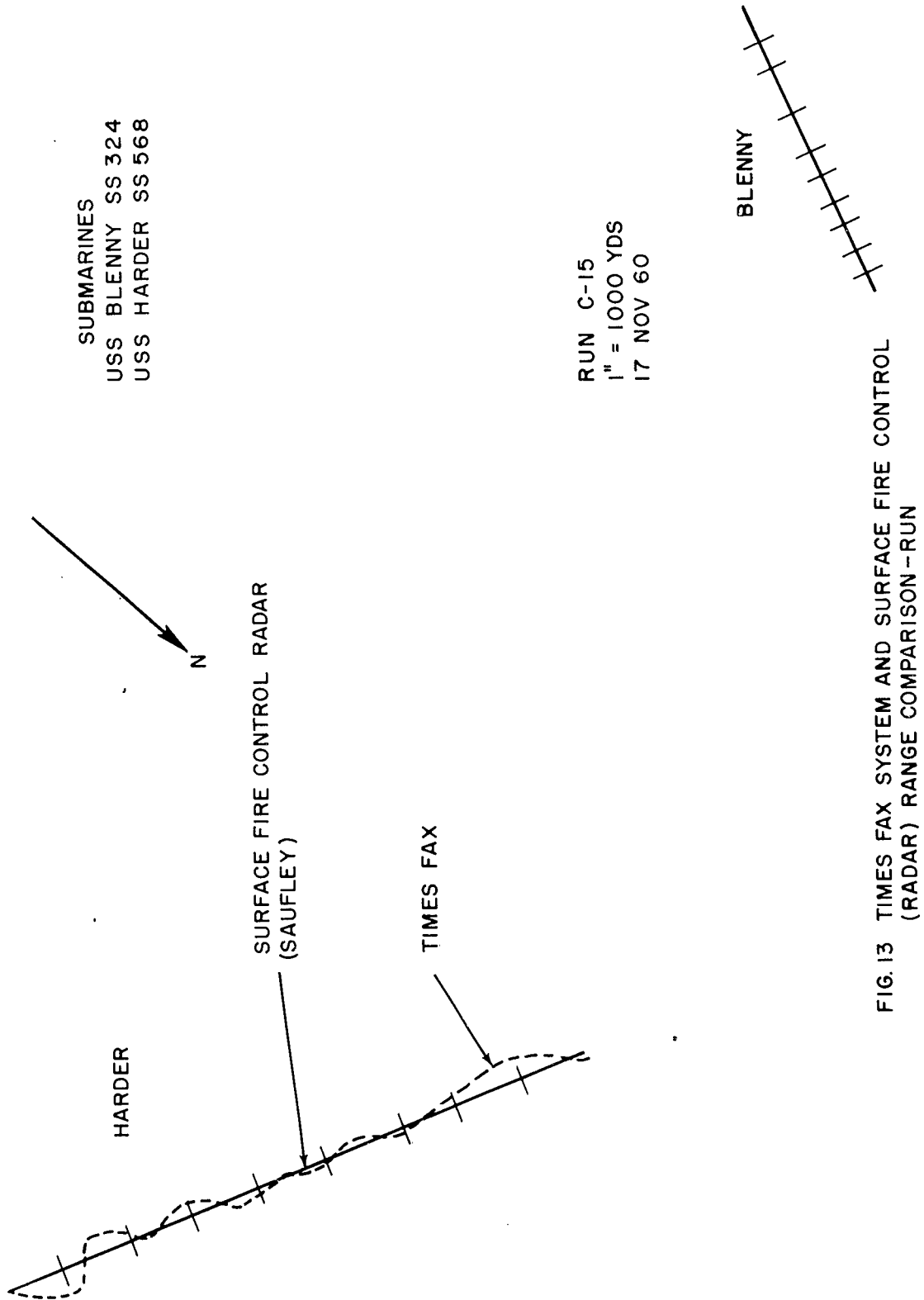


FIG. 13 TIMES FAX SYSTEM AND SURFACE FIRE CONTROL
(RADAR) RANGE COMPARISON - RUN

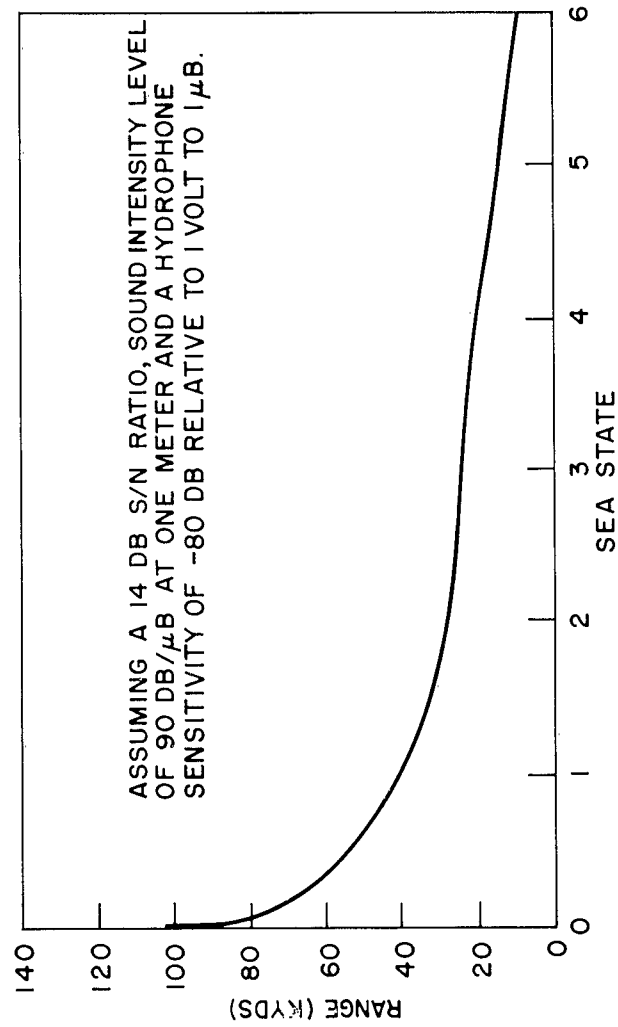


FIG. 14 ESTIMATED MAXIMUM TIMES FAX RANGE FOR VARIOUS SEA STATES

APPENDIX A

GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR QUARTZ
CRYSTAL OSCILLATOR

Stability

A-1. The stability should be five parts in 10^{10} per day or better. Short term stability should be one part in 10^{10} averaged over one-second intervals.

Standby Operation

A-2. In the event of power line failure, the crystal oscillator should be able to operate for extended periods from standby batteries.

Environmental Tests

A-3. The Quartz Oscillator is required to pass the following military environmental specifications:

a. Temperature - MIL-E-16400C, Class 4, paragraph 4.6.7 (non-operating test limits - -40°C to $+60^{\circ}\text{C}$)

b. Vibration - MIL-E-16400C, paragraph 4.6.14

c. Inclination - MIL-E-4970A, paragraph 4.12.6
Procedure IV, Category "D"

Output Frequencies

A-4. The output frequency requirements are as follows:

a. A one megacycle sine wave measuring one volt across 50 ohms

b. A 100 kc sine wave measuring one volt across 50 ohms

c. A 100 kc sine wave of sufficient level to drive a frequency divider

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Harmonic Distortion

A-5. The harmonic distortion should be 40 db or better below rated output. The non-harmonically related output should be 80 db or better below rated output.

Frequency Adjustment

A-6. A coarse adjustment is required with range of approximately 1 part in 10^6 . A fine adjustment is required with range of approximately 600 parts in 10^{10} .

Monitor Meter

A-7. A front-panel monitor meter is required to monitor by selector switch the following:

- a. Supply voltage
- b. Oscillator voltage
- c. Inner oven current
- d. Outer oven current
- e. 1 mc output
- f. 100 kc output

Weight

A-8. The weight should be approximately 18 pounds.

Power Requirements

A-9. The power requirement required is 22 to 30 volts DC with the positive common to ground.

Size

A-10. The chassis should be approximately 17 inches by 12 inches by 5 inches. The front panel should be 19 inches long for rack mounting.

APPENDIX B

GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE CHRONOMETER
(FREQUENCY DIVIDER AND CLOCK)

Input Frequency

B-1. The input frequency required is 100 kc.

Input Voltage

B-2. The input voltage required is from 0.5 to 5 volts rms.

Input Impedance

B-3. The input impedance required is 300 ohms nominal.

Auxiliary Output

B-4. Auxiliary outputs should be supplied for frequencies of 1 kc, 100 cps and 10 cps. The voltage level should be 0.25 volt rms, measured across a source impedance of 1,200 ohms. Front panel BNC connectors are required.

Tick Pulse Outputs

	<u>Rear BNC</u>	<u>Front BNC</u>
Pulse Rate	1 pps	1 pps
Amplitude	+10V, Min.*	-10V, Min.*
Rise Time	2 μ s Max.	2 μ s Max.
Duration	20 μ s Min.	20 μ s Min.
Jitter	1 μ s Max.	1 μ s Max.
Min. Recommended Load Impedance	4.7 k ohms Min. shunted by 200 pf Max.	1 meg. Min. shunted by 100 pf Max.

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<u>Pulse Outputs</u>	<u>Positive</u>	<u>Positive</u>
Pulse Rate	1 pps	1000 pps
Amplitude	+4V Min. open circuit +2V Min. across 50	+4V Min.
Rise Time	1 μ s Max.	2 μ s Min.

Frequency Divider

B-5. The frequency divider should be started manually. It should be of the regenerative type, and it should have a fail-safe feature.

Transient Effects

B-6. The frequency divider should not gain or lose time for the following:

- a. A ± 300 volt step function on 100 kc input
- b. A 0 to 50 volt pulse or a 0 to 500 pps or 1 to 10 μ s duration on 100 kc input
- c. A ± 4 volt step in 26 VDC input

Clock Mechanism

B-7. The clock mechanism should have a 24-hour dial; a minute hand adjustable in one minute steps, second hand continuously adjustable. Starting should be manual.

Monitor Meter

B-8. Ruggedized meter and selector switch on front panel for checking supply voltage, divider operation (100 kc, 10 kc, 1 kc) and total clock current.

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Power Required

B-9. Positive grounded 22 to 30 VDC, approximately
2 watts power dissipation.

APPENDIX C

A TRANSISTORIZED 300 WATT
1.066 kc POWER AMPLIFIER

Introduction

C-1. The transistorized power amplifier described herein was designed and constructed for the purpose of powering the Naval Research Laboratory's ALM-3B underwater acoustic transducer. The power amplifier was designed using present state of the art techniques.

Description

C-2. The power amplifier integrates five basic circuits into a system. The basic circuits are a keying stage, a tuned oscillator, a buffer stage, a driver stage and an output stage. The integrated system circuit schematic is presented in Figure C-1. The basic systems are as follows:

a. Keyer Circuit - The keyer uses a 2N174 transistor (Q2) for a switch. The transistor (off-on) state is controlled by either the Times Fax chronometer relay contacts or is controlled manually with a push-button switch that is in series with the chronometer relay contacts. This switch connects the base contact through a limiting resistor to ground. Turning the keyer stage on will apply power to the driver stage.

b. Oscillator Circuit - The oscillator consists of a two stage amplifier with positive feedback. The frequency of oscillation is determined by a tuned circuit appearing in the collector circuit of the first transistor. A Zener Diode is used as a power supply voltage regulator to improve the frequency stability.

c. Buffer Circuit - The buffer stage is used as a signal amplifier and also to provide impedance isolation of the oscillator stage from the output stages. It consists of an emitter follower followed by a grounded emitter amplifier. The collector of the grounded emitter amplifier is tuned by T2; a high Q, low impedance tuned circuit. Diode CR2 and C1 serve as a power supply filter for the buffer stage. This filter is necessary because the supply voltage

will drop when the amplifier is turned on through the keyer stage. Both the buffer stage and the oscillator stage operate continuously, as opposed to the driver and output stages, which only operate when the keyer is on.

d. The Driver Stage - The driver stage is turned on by the keyer whenever an output pulse is desired. The driver stage consists of a class C grounded emitter amplifier Q1. Transformer T3 forms the tuned circuit for this stage. The windings of this transformer are applied by twisting four strands of Formvar insulated No. 16 AWG copper wire together and winding on 34 turns. Two of these strands are then tapped to obtain the proper turns ratio. This winding technique is utilized in order to minimize the leakage inductance between the several windings. The air gap of this transformer must be adjusted to make the transformer resonate with capacitors C2, C3, and C4 to a frequency of 1066 cps.

e. The Power Output Stage - The necessary power output is achieved by employing four transistors in a push-pull, parallel circuit. These transistors are operated in essentially a class B manner. A grounded collector configuration is used to assure the coolest possible operation of the transistors. The four resistors R1 and two transformers T5 are used to cause the transistors to share the load equally. Diode CR1 is a bias device to prevent thermal runaway. The output transformer has several different secondary windings to accommodate a variety of load impedances. Capacitors C5, C6, C7 and C8 are used as power factor correction devices since the transducer does not represent a purely resistive load. In addition, these capacitors provide a technique for coupling both the amplifier and the transducer polarizing supply to the transducer. In the present application capacitors C5 and C6 are not used. The meter M1 is a wattmeter which is an aid in establishing proper polarizing current for the transducer during the initial adjustments.

C-3. The transmitter was assembled on a heavy copper chassis using conventional assembly methods. The chassis serves as a heat sink for the transistor dissipation. No additional cooling technique is required for this application because the pulse duty cycle is quite low.

C-4. Figure C-2 is a circuit diagram of the DC power supply used to operate this amplifier. It consists of a 28V 5 ampere hour storage battery with an automatic battery charging circuit. This power supply design presupposes that the amplifier will be operated in a pulse manner with a low duty cycle. Continuous operation of the amplifier will discharge the battery in about ten minutes.



C-5. The amplifier total efficiency is about 70 percent. The keying circuit produces good rise time for the output pulse with full output achieved within about two cycles of the carrier. The output waveform is nearly sinusoidal; however, it is somewhat dependent upon the power factor of the load.

C-6. To handle the power requirements, paralleled transistor circuits are used in each half of the push-pull class B power amplifiers. To insure that each transistor shares the current load equally, an equalizer inductor has been connected in series with the collector of each transistor. Any one of the two transistors per section may control the collector current by saturating the magnetic core.

C-7. The secondary of the power output transformer has four windings. Combinations of the windings will give impedance matching from 8.33 ohms to a maximum of 208 ohms. Also, output voltages varying from 50 to 250 may be obtained. The components for the power amplifier are standard commercial items. The transformer data is presented in Figure C-1. The DC supply for the power amplifier presented in Figure C-1 was designed for pulse operation. Any extended CW operation with this supply will degrade the power output to something less than maximum power.

APPENDIX D

DESIGN DETAILS OF THE TIMES FAX RECEIVER

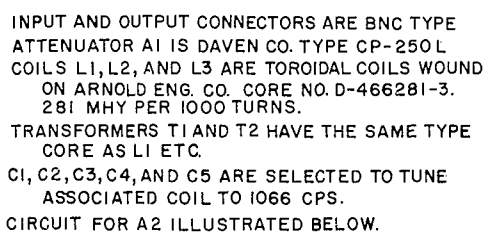
D-1. The principal function of the Times Fax receiver is to amplify the Times Fax signals as received by the sonar and to recognize the signal pulse the instant it arrives. When signal pulse recognition occurs, the receiver generates an output pulse that stops the time interval counter. The signal output from the sonar receiver contains ship's self noise and sea state noise. For long ranges, the Times Fax acoustic pulse will become the same order of magnitude as the noise and, hence, the receiver design problem becomes the conventional problem of detecting signals in the presence of noise. The technique used to discriminate against the noise was to make the receiver sharply tuned to the transmitted pulse carrier frequency (i.e., 1066 cps). In order to allow for a nominal amount of frequency misalignment between transmitter frequency and receiver frequency, apparent frequency shift due to doppler effects, and to provide a reasonably fast rise time; the receiver bandwidth was chosen to be 50 cps centered at 1066 cps.

D-2. It is to be expected that the ambient noise level at the receiver input will vary due to changing sea state or due to changed operation of the tracking ship. Therefore, it is necessary that the receiver have some type of automatic gain control (AGC) feature to provide proper operation in spite of the varying input noise level.

D-3. Receiver design considerations relating the signal-to-noise ratio for expected signals are as follows: The receiver input signal due to the acoustic noise may be approximated as a broad band noise voltage with a Gaussian amplitude distribution. If the effect of passing this signal through a band pass filter centered at a frequency of 1066 cps and having a bandwidth of 50 cps is considered, the signal passing out of the filter will have a random amplitude variation. Analysis will show that it is quite unlikely that in a period of a minute the instantaneous amplitude will be more than five times the rms noise voltage. The probability of the instantaneous amplitude exceeding four times the rms noise voltage is considerably higher. These considerations lead to the conclusion that the receiver should be designed to recognize pulses that exceed five times the rms value of the noise within the pass band of the receiver and ignore signals of lesser amplitude.

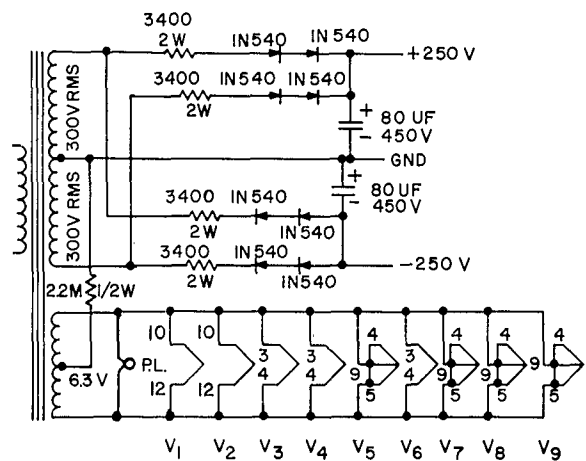
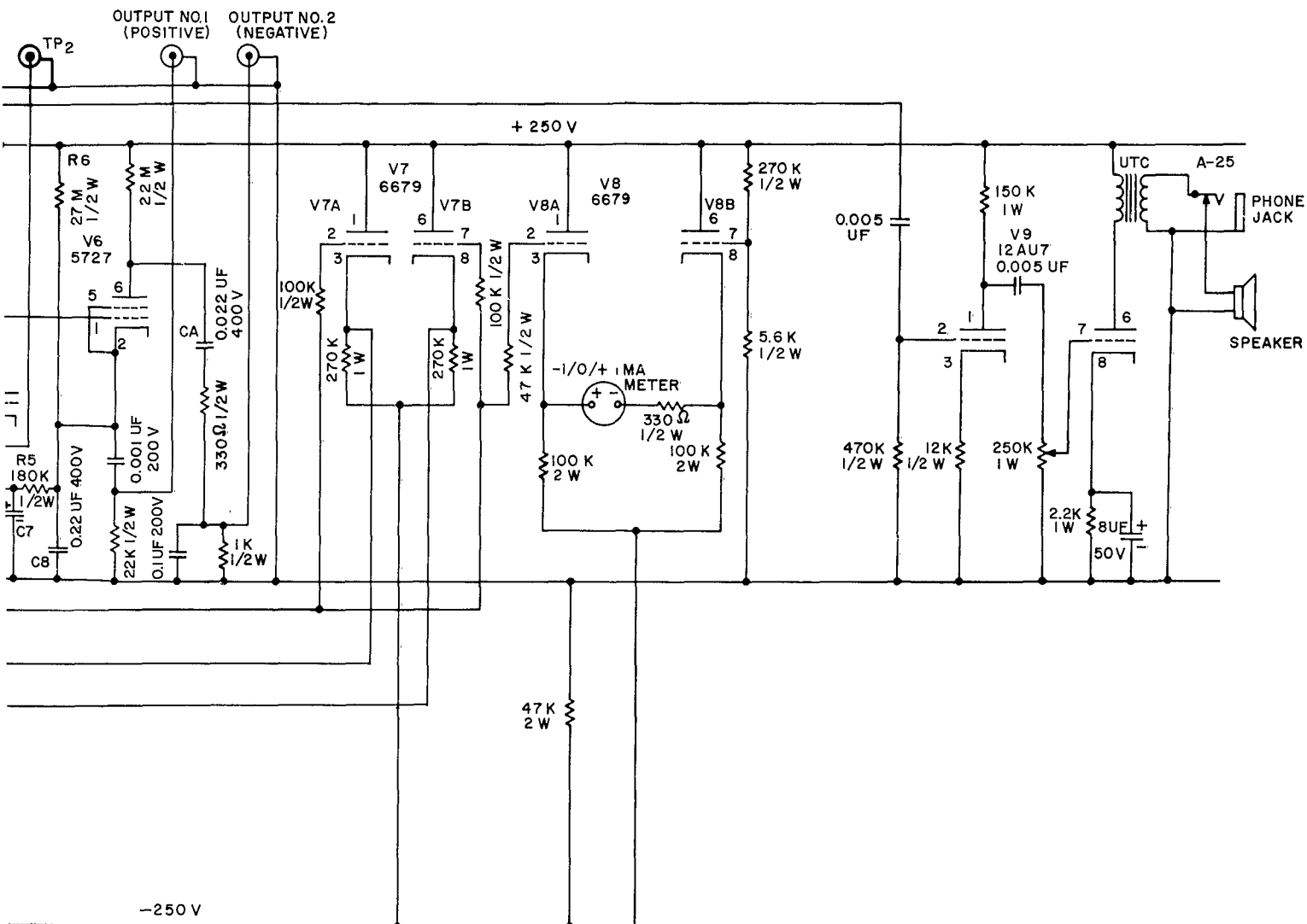
D-4. The above discussion points out the principal design considerations for the receiver. It is to have a bandwidth of 50 cps. The center frequency is to be 1066 cps. It is to have an AGC feature. It is to have a pulse signal recognition threshold approximately five times the rms noise level. It was assumed that the signals available from the sonar to be used as the receiver input signal would be between 1 millivolt and 10 volts. The initial design provided for these features. In the course of using this receiver, it was ascertained that several additional features were desirable and these were incorporated as add-on modifications to the initial design. In reference to Figure D-1, the circuit diagram, the initial design consisted of vacuum tube stages V3, V4, V5, V6, V7 and the associated components. The first modification consisted of adding a meter to indicate the average noise level at the input to the receiver. This modification consisted of vacuum tube stage V8, associated components, and attenuator A2. It was soon determined that under some circumstances the input level was less than had been anticipated; hence, a preamplifier of vacuum tube stages V1 and V2 was added. The last modification consisted of adding an audio amplifier, stage V9, and a speaker as an aid in the adjustment and operation of the Times Fax equipment. The net result of these several stages of modification is a design that is somewhat different than would have been obtained had all of these features been considered at the outset. For example, the two attenuators A1 and A2 both perform essentially the same function and one would be sufficient but both, however, exist in the equipment and, hence, appear on the circuit diagram.

D-5. A detailed description of the circuit operation follows: The band pass filter function is provided by coils T1, L1, L2, and L3 with the associated capacitors and resistors. Coils T1 and L1 in conjunction with C1, C2, and R1 form a double tuned circuit of the type commonly used in radio broadcast receivers. Reference (a) contains an excellent analysis of this circuit. The analysis will not be repeated. It is sufficient to say that this circuit is based on an equal "Q" design with a value of 28 for Q. Resistor R1 was chosen to provide proper primary loading. No secondary loading resistor was required. Coils T2 and L3 with associated capacitors are based upon the same design, however, the impedance level is somewhat different due to the specific location in the circuit. Resistor R2 was selected to provide proper loading for L3. In this instance no primary loading resistor was required. Capacitors C1, C2, C4, and C5 must be selected to resonate their associated coils at exactly 1066 cps. Coil L2 with capacitor C3 and



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FIG.D-1 SCHEMATIC WIRING DIAGRAM OF TIMES FAX RECEIVER
D-3



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resistor R3 form a single tuned circuit also described in reference (a). The Q in this case was chosen to be 10, thus, most of the filtering action is provided by the double tuned circuits. Capacitor C3 is selected to resonate coil L2 at 1066 cps.

D-6. The signal amplification is accomplished by vacuum tube stages V1, V2, V3, and V4. The preamplifier stages V1 and V2 are conventional resistance-capacitance coupled stages. The vacuum tube type 7586 was chosen for its excellent low noise characteristics. The preamplifier circuits can provide a gain up to approximately 54 db depending upon the setting of attenuator A1. Vacuum tube stages V3 and V4 are designed to match a remote cutoff pentode. The AGC action is accomplished in these stages.

D-7. Vacuum tube stage V5A serves a dual function: as an infinite impedance detector and a cathode follower for positive going signals at its grid terminal. The signal at the grid will be an AC signal with an amplitude of about 20V rms. The signal at the cathode will follow only the positive portions of the grid signal, hence, the signal at test point TP1 will appear as a series of half sine pulses. This signal will have a DC component which is a function of signal amplitude. The DC component is passed through the filter R4-C6 and this is the signal used for the automatic gain control operation. The term signal as used here refers to the voltages at the several points. The voltages are due mostly to the acoustic noise present at the hydrophone due to the low duty cycle of the Times Fax transmitter. This is not to be interpreted as implying the signal-to-noise ratio to be poor at this stage, but rather that the function of this stage is determined over an interval of several seconds and actual pulse signal lasts for only about 1/20 of a second. The DC component of voltage is, therefore, due mainly to the acoustic noise. In precise terms, the signal at TP1 is intended to be a replica of the instantaneous grid signal. The voltage across capacitor C6 is intended to be proportional to the average value of the envelope of the pulse signal plus the voltage due to the acoustic noise.

D-8. Vacuum tube stage V5B is also an infinite impedance detector, however, this stage determines the peak value of the signal plus noise. Presumably the peak value will be due to the signal pulse as it is expected that the signal will be at least five times larger than the rms noise. The peak value of the instantaneous signal envelope appears across C7. The build-up time of this voltage is about 30 milliseconds due to the limited transconductance of tube V5B. This is a desirable

condition because this voltage is used as a hold-off bias for the pulse detector.

D-9. The thyatron V6 is used as the pulse detector. The instantaneous positive portion of the signal plus noise is applied to the grid. The cathode is biased by a voltage derived from the last previous pulse signal. The time constant of R7-C7 has been selected to allow this bias to decrease to about 80 percent of the last previous signal amplitude. This is essential because the amplitude of successive signal pulses cannot be expected to always be identical, and some provision must be made for intervals of decreasing signal level. There is, in addition, a fixed bias for V6 which is obtained through R5, R6, and R7. This is necessary because of the static characteristics of V6. When the instantaneous grid signal of V6 exceeds approximately 80 percent of the last previous pulse signal, V6 will conduct and discharge C9. A positive going output signal will appear at output terminal No. 1, and a negative going output signal will appear at output terminal No. 2. Output signals of both polarities are made available to accommodate several types of counters and period readers.

D-10. The automatic gain control function is accomplished by applying the voltage that appears across C6 to the cathodes of V3 and V4. This voltage is routed through both halves of V7 connected as cathode followers for impedance matching purposes. The AGC signal is applied to the cathodes of V3 and V4 rather than to the grids, which is the more conventional technique. This is done to minimize the problem of preventing amplifier oscillations through common impedance coupling.

D-11. The meter circuit, V8, is calibrated in decibels after the receiver is constructed. It provides a relative measure of noise level. This feature is most useful during a specific test run as it provides a relative indication of the noise conditions.

D-12. The audio amplifier and power supply are conventional in design. The audio amplifier is useful in establishing initial contact during the course of a test. The incoming pulse signal can be easily detected by ear even in the presence of considerable local noise.

D-13. The receiver was constructed using conventional techniques. The tuned circuits were placed in shielded enclosures to prevent oscillations. Harmonics of the 60 cps power frequency also tend to cause noise like signals within the pass band of the receiver and some shielding must be provided to eliminate this problem.

D-14. The operation of the receiver is satisfactory, in general; however, some specific features need further development effort. The minimum input signal level is approximately 10 microvolts rms. The major objectional feature is in the area of response to noise pulses. When the signal-to-noise ratio is low, the probability of generating false output signals tends to be much higher than anticipated by analysis. The reason for this is not wholly understood but several areas are suspect. Gaussian noise distribution was originally assumed, whereas it is suspected that the actual acoustic noise present contains considerable impulse-type noise generated by the vessel carrying the Times Fax equipment. A second suspect area is the threshold detector. The threshold detector in conjunction with the AGC circuits are designed to recognize pulse signals or impulse-type noise whenever the instantaneous signal plus noise exceeds 80 percent of the last previous pulse. This action is modified by certain fixed biases in the threshold detector and is a function of the specific noise level at the detector. These are affected by the attenuator settings and the AGC circuit; hence, it is difficult to establish an optimum operating condition. It is believed that the threshold device should be designed to recognize pulse signals that exceed the noise by a fixed ratio regardless of the noise level. The present design is that for strong signals the threshold is only a function of signal. For weak signals, the threshold is a fixed voltage above the noise which is dependent upon AGC action and attenuator settings. It should be pointed out, however, that a laboratory test with a Gaussian noise source and simulated pulse signals at a signal-to-noise ratio of five produced no false output signals over an interval of 500 true input pulses.

D-15. Work is in progress, at present, to develop a receiver that will have a stronger AGC action and a threshold device that is only a function of signal to noise ratio. It is expected that some additional discrimination against impulse-type noise can be obtained by disabling the receiver during those intervals when it is impossible to receive a true pulse signal. This is possible for any specific test because the range to be measured lies between certain previously known values.

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References

- (a) "Vacuum Tube Amplifiers" by Vally and Wallman, Radiation Laboratory, Series Vol. 18 published by McGraw-Hill Book Company

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APPENDIX E

LOGIC PUNCH-OUT SYSTEM

Introduction

E-1. The Logic Punch-out System was designed to record the Times Fax ranges, real time, and time interval information. Therefore, the Punch-out System described herein includes the logic components required for the data outputs of the sonar system. The sonar system's logic requirements may be easily omitted or a similar system may be purchased commercially with the sonar system requirements omitted.

Purpose of System

E-2. The system is designed to record output from an electronic counter and a slave clock once per second. The system records by punching holes in a paper tape. The advantages of using paper tape are:

- a. The punch is physically small.
- b. Paper tape is widely available.
- c. Visual output checks can be made during operation.
- d. It is an incremental digital recorder versus continuous punch-out.

General Explanation

E-3. Basically, the system punches data on a tape once every second, upon receipt of a signal from a chronometer. The data consists of three parts: 5 decimal digits from the monitoring electronic counter, 5 digits from the Times Fax counter, and 6 digits from a slave clock. The data output for any one second is referred to as a record. A typical record is shown in Figure E-1. The slave clock data provides a reference time count to aid in identification of the data. Once every ten seconds, on the count of either 8, 18, 28, 38, 48, or 58 seconds, the normal reading DT is replaced by a different reading T. The T is identified by a 4, 5, or 6 in

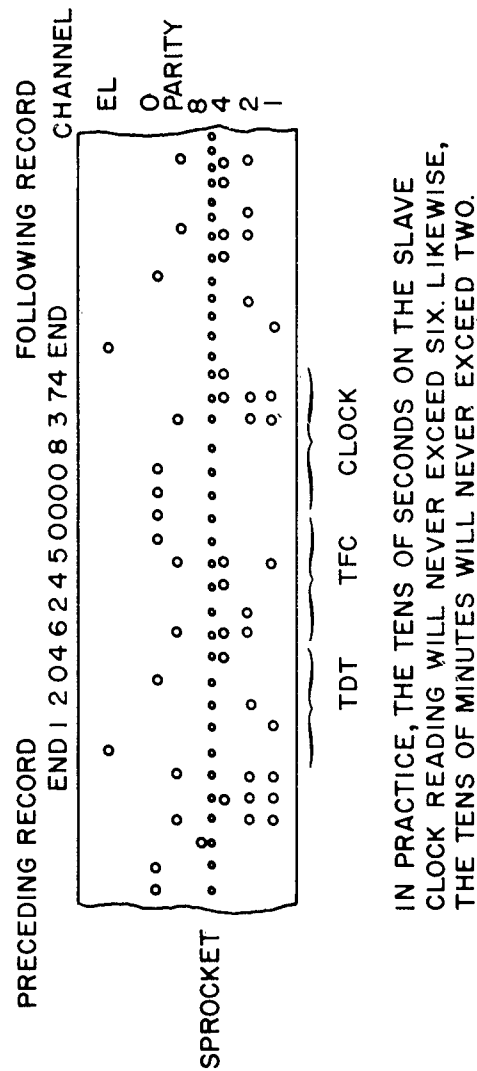


FIG.E-1 TYPICAL TIMES FAX RECORD

the tens of hours digit of the preceding (7th second) record. The overall block diagram (Figure E-2) and the general explanation that follows describes the system.

E-4. The Chronometer provides accurate time signals to the slave clock and the two counters. T1, T2, T3, and T4 are the time interval or period functions that are monitored. The interval between T1 and T2 is defined as DT. The interval between T3 and T4 is defined as T. When the TDT Counter has stopped, it provides a -6 volt level to the Programmer. This level tells the Programmer that the counter is ready to be read out. The Times Fax Counter functions similarly.

E-5. The Programmer provides the following:

- a. The "Q" and "PF" pulses to read data into the Shift Registers.
- b. The Shift pulses which shift the Shift Register.
- c. The Reset pulses to reset the last stage of the Shift Register of each channel.
- d. The "Sprocket" and "End of Line" pulses to the Tape Punch.
- e. The "TDA" pulse, which is punched as the "4" bit of the tens of hours digit, is used to mark the T reading. The TDA pulse causes the switching from T1 - T2 to T3 - T4 for the 8th second reading. All of these pulses are synchronized.

E-6. "TDT" tells the Programmer when the seconds reading on the slave clock ends in 7. This information is used to set up "TDA".

E-7. The "Parity and Zero Generator" provides the zero pulse and the check pulse to the Tape Punch.

E-8. The Tape Punch translates the information pulses into holes in the paper tape.

E-9. There are four shift channels, one each for the 1, 2, 4, and 8 bits. They are identically parallel with respect to the shift pulses and the reset pulses.

E-10. There is also an "And" gate for each Shift Register bit which may be read as a logical "1". (Note that some bits will always be "0" since the slave clock counts seconds and minutes to 60 and hours to 24. These bits do not have

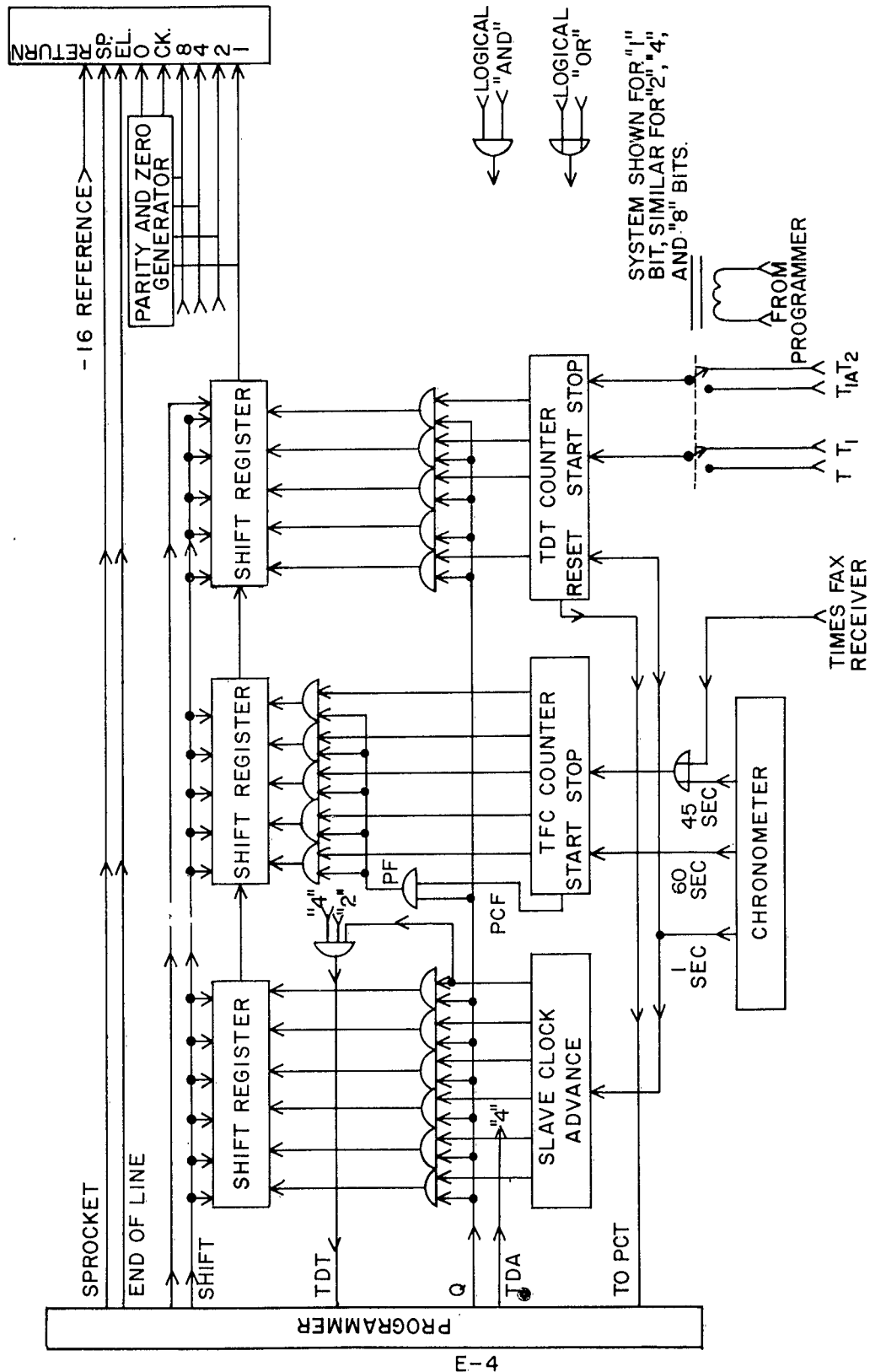


FIG.E-2 SIMPLIFIED DIAGRAM OF SYSTEM

corresponding "And" gates.) All the gates associated with the TFC counter are connected in parallel to the "PF" pulse. Similarly, the "Q" pulse is connected in parallel to the gates for the Slave Clock and the TDT counter.

Details of the System

E-11. This section does not include either the programmer or the punch.

Chronometer

E-12. This is an accurate temperature stabilized crystal controlled clock which provides signals every second, every 45th second, and every 60th second.

TDT and Times Fax (TFC) Counters

E-13. These are 10 megacycle universal counter-timers, which have been modified to increase the drive available to external loads, and to permit resetting them by external pulses. Under the present system, the TFC Counter resets itself, while the chronometer supplies a reset pulse, once a second, to the TDT Counter.

E-14. The TDT Counter is started and stopped by pulse signals that are monitored (i.e., sonar). One reading is taken each second. Normally, the counter is started by a pulse T1 and stopped by a pulse T2, thus, measuring DT. However, the inputs are switched in such a manner that, when the seconds reading of the slave clock ends in 8, the TDT Counter records the time interval between pulses T3 and T4, thus, measuring T.

E-15. Switching of these pulse signals is accomplished by having relay contacts transfer position at the time of completion of a DT count while the slave clock is reading seven seconds until completion of the next count.

E-16. The TFC Counter is started by a pulse from the chronometer, precisely at the beginning of each minute. It is allowed to run until a pulse is received from the Times Fax receiver. If no such pulse is received, the chronometer will stop the counter by a stop impulse 45 seconds later.

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E-17. At the completion of a count in either the TDT or TFC Counter, the data output lines for each bit will present a nominal voltage level of -6V, if a "1" is present, and 0 volts for a zero. Likewise, a negative voltage will appear on the "print command" line for each counter, a short time after counting has been completed. This negative voltage will remain present until the corresponding counter is reset, at which time it will drop to zero volts. The transition from 0 to -6 volts on the TDT Counter's "print command" line is sensed by the programmer to initiate a print cycle. If such a transition is sensed on the "print command" line of the TFC Counter at any time following the start of the previous print cycle, its data will be stored in the shift register after completion of this cycle and will be printed along with TDT and slave clock data during the next cycle, in the following second. Otherwise, zeros will appear in the location reserved for punching this information.

Slave Clock

E-18. This is a Digital Clock, which has been modified to give greater output. This clock gives the time each reading was made. It is synchronized to the chronometer and advances its count by one second each time the chronometer emits a "reset" pulse.

TDT Gate

E-19. This is a digital "flip flop" circuit which gives an output when the "second" reading of the slave clock ends in 7. The programmer uses this output to energize an input relay to the TDT counter so the reading corresponding to the next second is the interval from T3 to T4. See Figure E-3.

Shift Registers

E-20. Refer to Figure E-3 and Figure E-4. Each clock or counter gives an output in Binary Coded Decimal format. Thus, each digit has a "1", "2", "4", and "8" bit, which is present only for certain digits. Each bit from the counter goes to one input of a two-legged NAND gate. The other input to each of the NAND gates is either the Q pulse (for data recorded each second) or the PF pulse (for Times Fax data). When either a Q or PF pulse appears at the input to the gate while the other input is -6V, the data in the counter is transferred to the corresponding bit in the Shift Register, as indicated in Figure E-2.

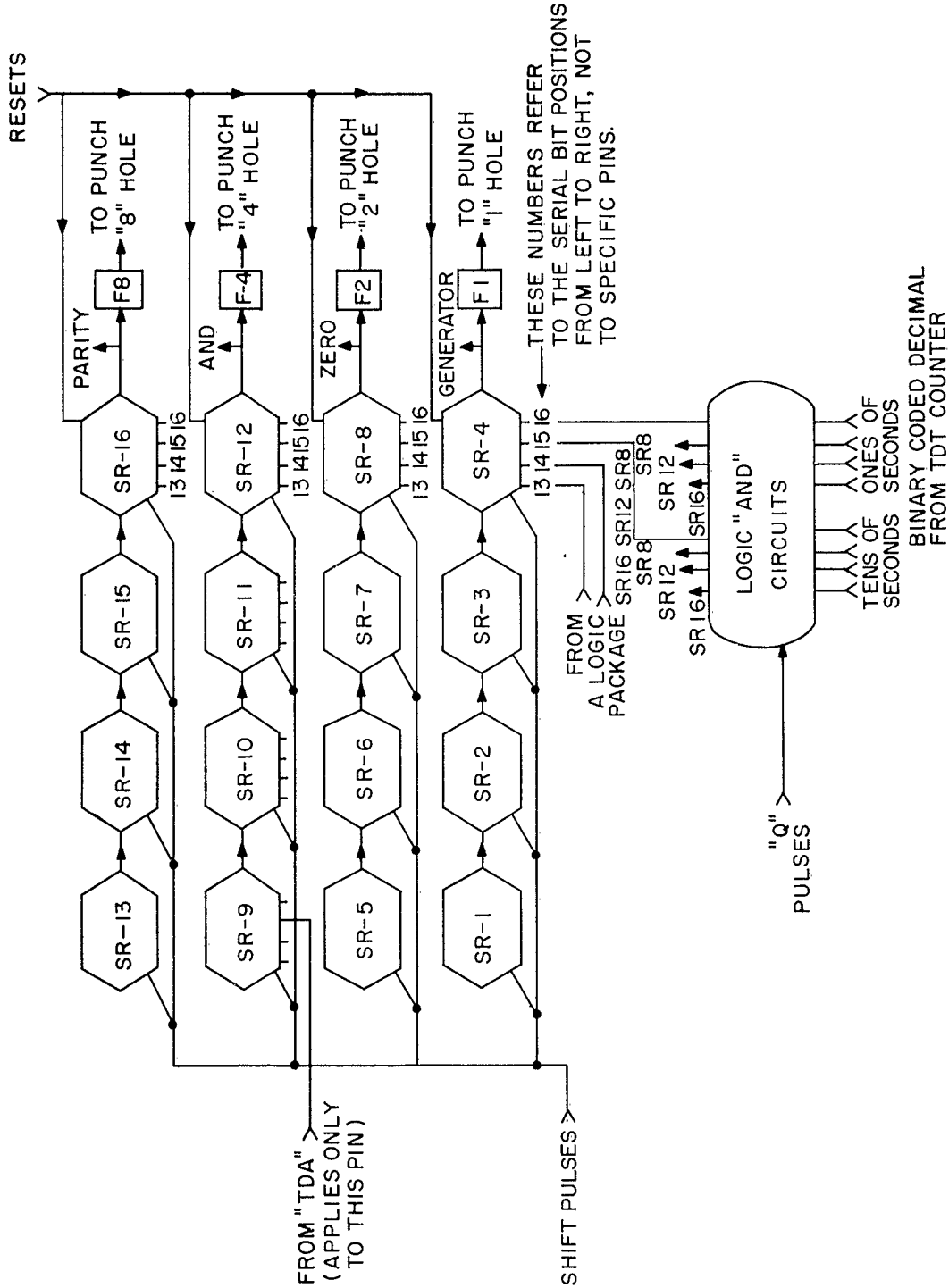


FIG.E-3 ARRANGEMENT OF THE SHIFT REGISTERS AND GATES, WITH TYPICAL DETAIL

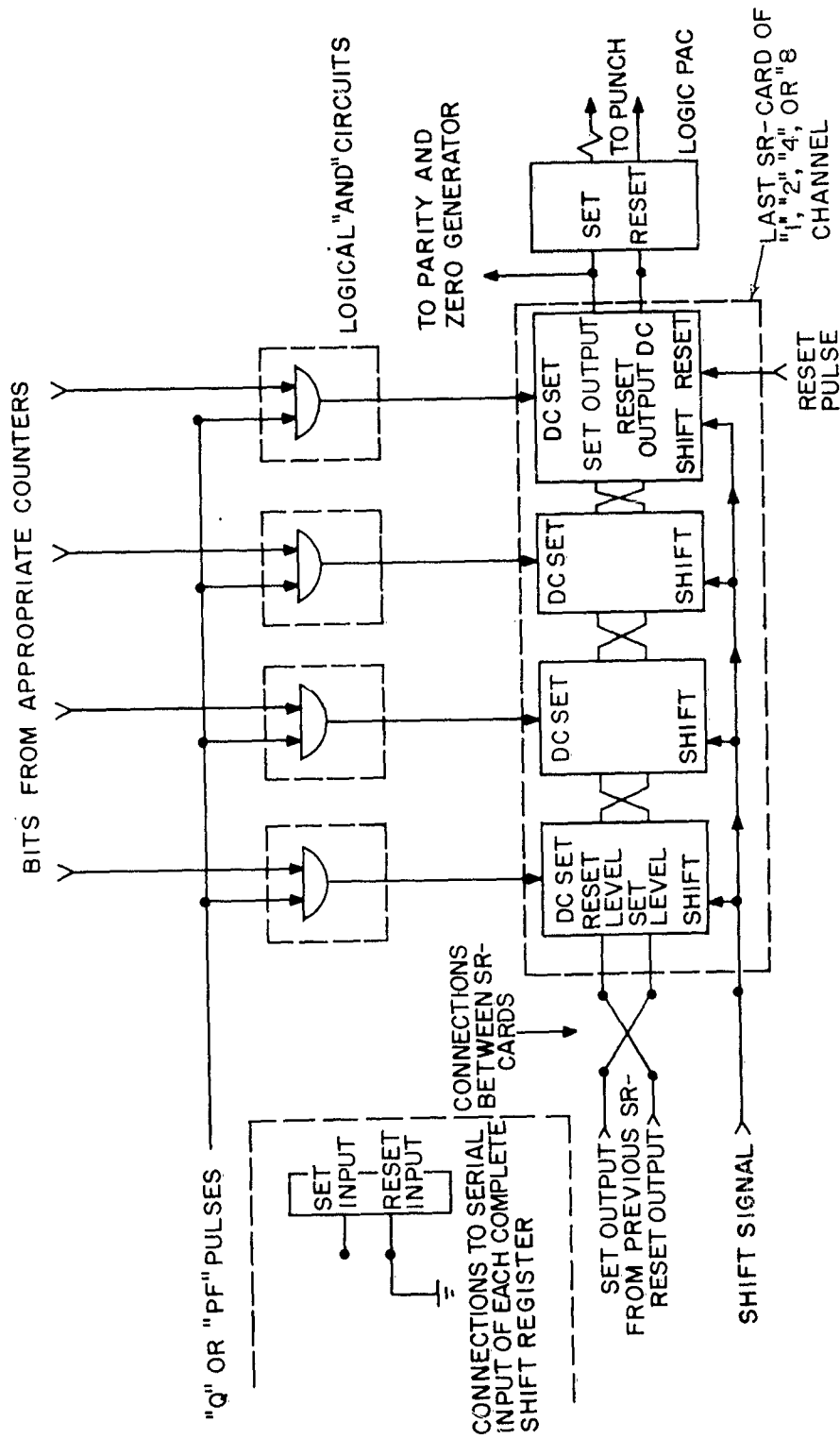


FIG. E-4 CONNECTION DETAIL OF TYPICAL LAST STAGE OF SHIFT REGISTER CHANNEL

E-21. There are four 16-stage shift registers, one each for the "1", "2", "4", and "8" bit of each digit. The registers are identical, except for the "TDA" and "TDT" connections noted in Figure E-3 and Figure E-2, respectively. Each shift register is actually made up of four serially cross-connected shift register cards, each of which is really a four-stage Shift Register. See Figure E-4. The set level input of the first stage of each channel's shift register is connected to a -6 volts, while the reset level is connected to 0 volts.

E-22. These fixed complementary serial inputs cause zero to be shifted into the first stage to replace data shifted out. Thus, after sixteen shift pulses the entire register is cleared without need for overall reset pulses. However, because the punch input electronics require pulses not less than 50 μ s a reset pulse is required in order to generate a pulse that is compatible with the punch's input electronics. In addition, a similar "sprocket" pulse is required at the same time as the data to drive the punch.

E-23. The output of each channel's shift register drives a flip flop, the output of which is coupled through a dropping resistor into the punch. The resistor must drop the voltage from -16V to between -10V and -6V and is, thus, not very critical. The shift registers remain in any given state until they are switched.

TDA Signal

E-24. The "TDA" signal is obtained from the slave clock on the 7 second. This signal is then sent to the third stage of shift register 9. This is the "4" of the tens of hours reading from the slave clock and will cause it to indicate a 4, 5, or 6 on the tape, instead of 0, 1, or 2, respectively. This illegal reading indicates that on the following second the TDT counter is reading out T instead of Δ T. The TDA signal is on for almost a full second.

Parity Generator

E-25. This is a digital logic circuit which drives a logic "flip flop" whenever an even number of holes is present, i.e., on a 3, 5, 6, or 9. Therefore, the total number of holes across the paper strip should always be odd. The pulse sent to the punch for parity follows the shift pulse by 3 μ s

to insure that its output corresponds to the data present after the shift has taken place.

Zero Generator

E-26. This Logic package provides a zero pulse, if the "1", "2", "4", and "8" are zero. This is sent also to the punch $3\mu\text{s}$ after the shift pulse.

Programmer (See Figure E-5)

E-27. The programmer generates the load, shift, sprocket, reset and end of line pulses, in their proper sequence. It utilizes "dynamic" type logic, rather than the more conventional "static" type. Hence, unless one is familiar with this type of logic, it is difficult to describe its operation in any detail, and only a very general description of its operation is given here.

E-28. Upon receipt of a print command pulse from the counter which is read each second, a single pulse PT is generated, which is used to turn on a flip flop W. This flip flop enables the frequency dividers D11, D58, and D63 to operate, thus, providing output pulses at time intervals of approximately $11 \times 58 \times 63$ microseconds, or about 25 times per second. These output pulses are used to generate shift pulses, SH, to the tape punch, and also count pulses into a binary counter C1-C5. The timing of the shift pulse is delayed so that a load pulse Q is generated on the first count in the counter and the shift pulse follows about $58\mu\text{s}$ later. The SH pulse (see Figure E-6) is used to set flip flops RE1 and RE2, which are then reset about $58\mu\text{s}$ later. The resulting waveform output of RE2 is used to provide the "sprocket" pulse to the punch. This must accompany each set of data inputs to the punch to cause it to punch the data presented to it. See Figure E-7.

E-29. The trailing edge of the RE1 pulse is used to generate a short duration pulse to reset the final stage of each of the shift registers, so that they will present the proper data to the punch electronics.

E-30. At the binary count of seventeen, gate EL passes a pulse which resets the binary counter C1-C5, and also resets the flip flop W, which then inhibits the frequency dividers and programming clock, thus, preventing any

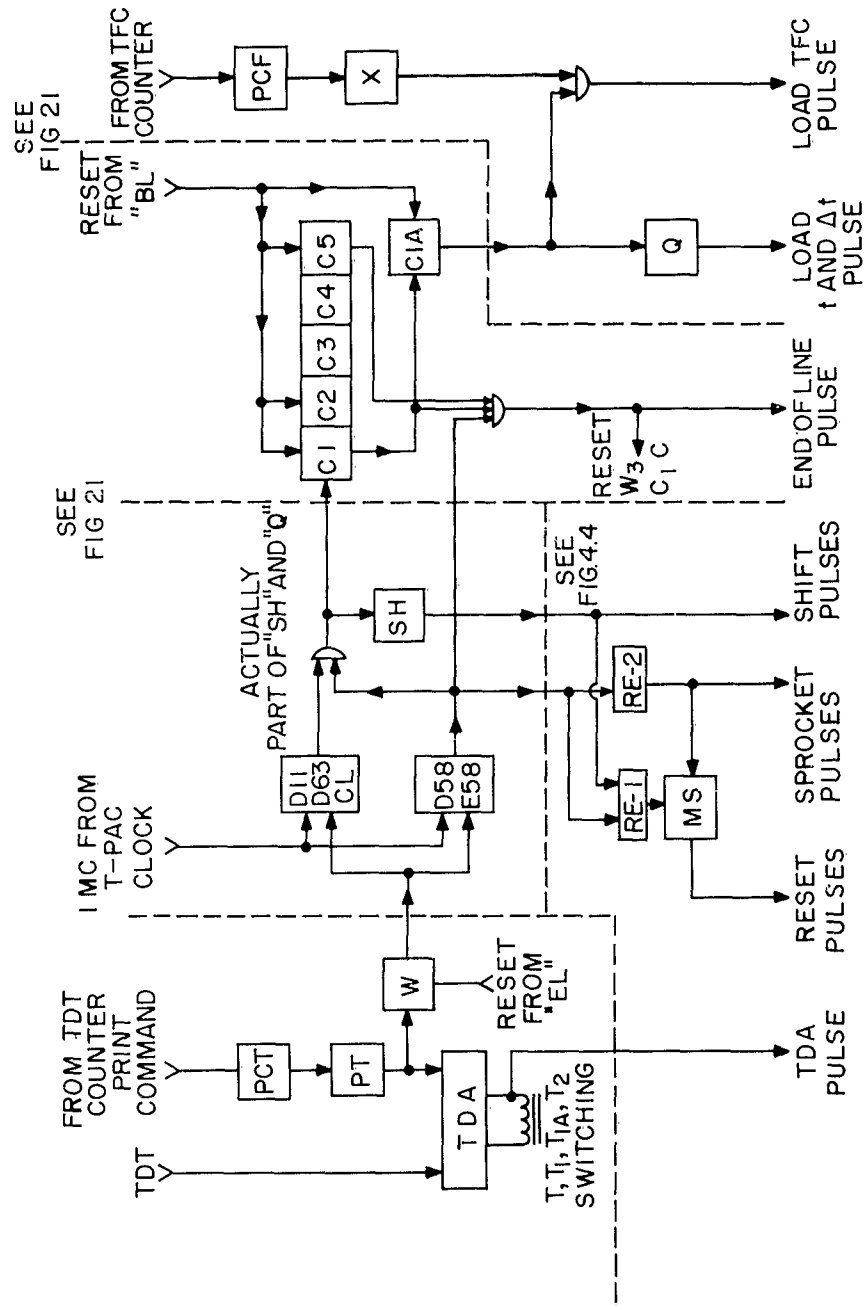


FIG.E-5 PROGRAMMER-SIMPLIFIED DIAGRAM

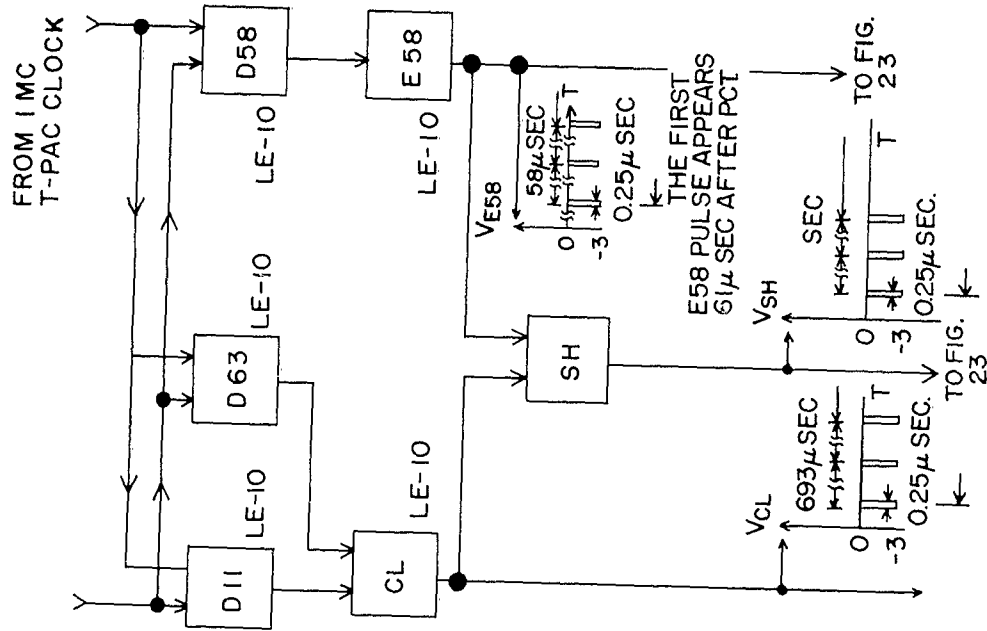


FIG.E-6 SH PULSE CIRCUIT

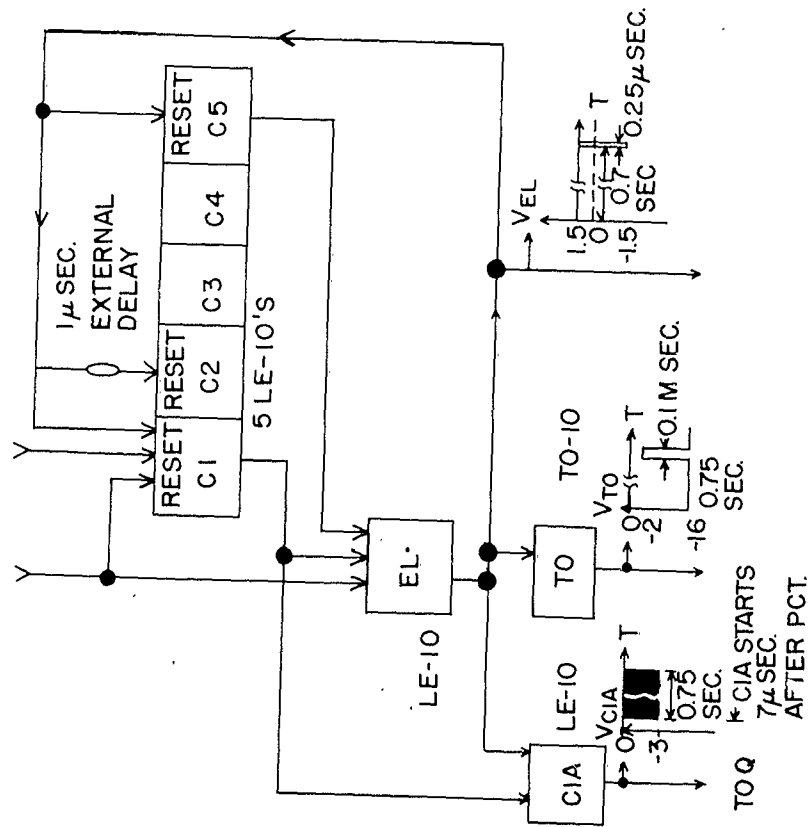
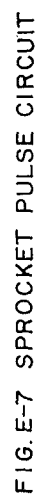


FIG.E-6 SH PULSE CIRCUIT



more pulses from being counted until another print command is received. The output of EL is likewise used to reset a flip flop ClA, and to feed a one-shot TO. TO gives a 100 μ s duration pulse to track 8 on the punch, to generate an end of line punch in that track, on the seventeenth pulse. See Figure E-6. ClA is then reset, and is ready to gate in another Q pulse at the beginning of the next cycle.

E-31. If a print command signal is received from the Times Fax counter, a single pulse is generated by TCF which sets flip flop X. This remains set so that on the next Q pulse, it is passed through gate Y, which resets X, and at the same time is shaped by other packages, as shown in Figure E-8, to generate the gating pulse SF, which loads the data into the register to be shifted out during the punch cycle.

E-32. In some cases more than one package is used to shape and supply load pulses, etc. This is done in order to limit the package loading to acceptable values or to provide correct voltage levels, and has no function in explaining the logical operation.

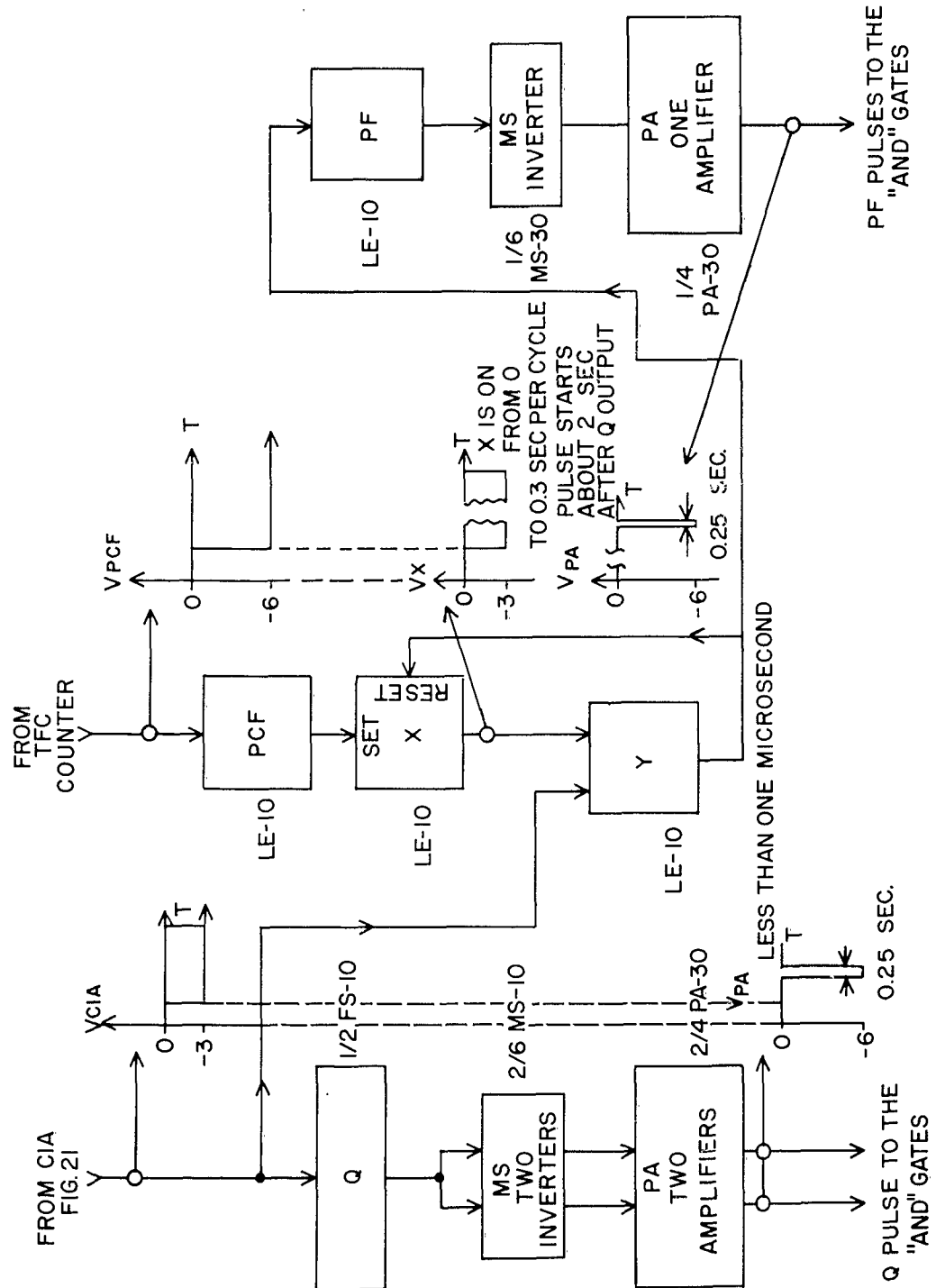


FIG.E-8 SHAPE PULSE CIRCUIT

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BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION				
DESCRIPTORS	CODES	DESCRIPTORS	CODES	CODES
NOL technical report	NOLTR	Unclassified - 28		U028
REPORT NUMBER 62-219	620219			
REPORT DATE 14 Jan. 1963	0163			

SUBJECT ANALYSIS OF REPORT				
DESCRIPTORS	CODES	DESCRIPTORS	CODES	CODES
Times Fax	TFAX	Subsystems	SUBY	DETC
Underwater	UNDE	Commercial	CMWR	COMO
Acoustic	ACOU	Availability	ACQU	INSM
Range	RNGE	Pulse	PULS	EQUI
Reference	RFRN	Chronometer	CLOC	
Sonar	SONA	Controlled	CONT	
System	SYST	Radio transmitters	RADN	
Relative	RELT	Radio receiver	RDIR	
Submarines	SUBM	Recorder	RECR	
Sea state	SSTT	Torpedo	TORP	
Ranging	RANI	Fire control	FIRC	
Capability	CAPB	Evaluation	EVAL	

Naval Ordnance Laboratory, White Oak, Md.
(NOL technical report 62-219)
TIMES FAX: AN UNDERWATER ACOUSTIC RANGE
REFERENCE (U), by D. D. Woolston and E. A.
Bitz. 14 Jan. 1963. v.p. illus., diagr.,
tables.
UNCLASSIFIED

This report describes a sonar range refer-
ence system, referred to as the Times Fax Sys-
tem, for determining the relative range be-
tween two submarines. Times Fax ranging ca-
pabilities vary with submarine self noise and
sonar conditions. Considering sea state
noise only, Times Fax has a ranging capability
of 28 kiloyards to 10 kiloyards for Sea
States 2 and 6, respectively.

Abstract card is unclassified.

1. Sonar systems -
Times Fax
2. Sound, Under-
water -
Ranging
- I. Title
- II. Title: An
underwater
acoustic range
reference
- III. Woolston,
Daniel D.
- IV. Bitz,
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